

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship in

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXII, Number 2, Summer 2007



Spring to Summer Memories

Diane Barth

Summer is here, and the days are warmer and longer as we approach the Summer Solstice of mid-June; the vivid hues of the beautiful spring flora are beginning to wane. The upcoming season of summer represents pleasurable and leisurely times with family and friends, and memories of youthful experiences.

Spring is always a busy season in our Russian River State Parks. The low tides of the last couple of weeks have been incredible and were experienced by hundreds of students, young and old alike. On Saturday, May 19th we had two wonderful trainings: John Klobas from SRJC provided tide pool volunteers with some great techniques for interpreting the intertidal and later in the morning, State Park Archeologist, Breck Parkman led a hike out to the Sunset Rocks exploring his theory about the mammoths and taking us on a mental visit back in time and far into the future. Both trainings will be long remembered by all who

participated. We are fortunate also to have Norman Hill, Joyce Bacci and Keith Nelson to lead our annual spring wildflower hikes at Armstrong and Willow Creek and George Zastrow and Suki Waters led a wonderful paddle in the lower Russian River viewing birds and nesting sites, these annual rituals are always inspiring.

The busy spring school field trip season is now coming to a close. Nearly 4,000 students visited Armstrong Redwoods this spring and 866 students explored the tide pools at the Sonoma Coast. Nearly 1,400 students received docent-led tours. I would personally like to thank the incredible docents that give generously of their time to inspire these young people. It is often a challenge, but very rewarding to know that we have made a difference.

The new Environmental Living Program welcomed students from Willowside Middle School and Guerneville School to relive the past land uses by Native Americans, Russian settlers, loggers and ranchers. Many of these students will remember this experience as one of the highlights of their school years.

We live in an extraordinary location and interesting history is being made all around us. There are so many opportunities to take hikes, paddle the river, attend fun festivals, concerts and plays—and at the same time be inspired by our rich natural resources and history. Slow down your busy life, spend quality time with family and friends and create your future memories.

Mission Statement

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) works in partnership with California State Parks to protect and interpret the natural and cultural resources of the Russian River District.

State Parks Supported

Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park
Willow Creek Watershed

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Refer to the flyer inserts for the details

Armstrong Redwoods Horseback Trail Ride w/lunch	June 25, 2007
Russian River Paddle - Guerneville with WaterTreks	July 8, 2007
Red Hill Hike with docent Norman Hill	July 14, 2007
Festival of Art and Wine in Duncans Mills and the Annual Rubber Duck Races	July 21 & 22, 2007
Jenner Full Moon Paddle & light dinner with WaterTreks	July 29, 2007
Nature Photography Class with Chuck Honek includes lunch and BBQ dinner in the park	July 30, 2007
Jenner Estuary Paddle with Suki Waters & George Zastrow	August 5, 2007
Geology Hike with docent Jon Green	August 11, 2007
Bodega Seafood, Art, and Wine Festival	August 26 & 27, 2007
Old Grove Festival & Greek Feast	Sept. 14 & 15, 2007

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Norman Hill
Ranger Dave Horvitz
Breck Parkman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Michele Luna, Executive Director



As I gaze out the window in front of my computer desk, I can see the Oregon Junkos flying to and from the nest they have built outside my office. They are tending to the details of nurturing their young, who look like they are ready to fledge any time now.

In a similar way, our new Environmental Living Program (ELP) is ready to grow and transform as our committed docents take on a sense of ownership as they develop creative ways to teach the students about the natural and cultural history on Sonoma Coast. We have laid the framework for this program so it meets the State's educational standards and done our best to provide the docents with the resources they need. This is my favorite time in the development of new programs—when the docents take the next step in helping us improve and refine the program.

I would like to thank both Suzanne Abrams and Beth Robinson, who we hired to help us develop the program and resource materials. They have been wonderful to work with. I also want to thank Justin Kornfein from Willowside School and Brenda and Doug Robinson from Guerneville School who offered their students as our first classes. I especially want to thank our dedicated docents Suzanne Abrams, Bill Bambrick, Audrey and Doug King, and Norman Hill who helped us put on the first pilot programs this spring. We will all miss Beth, a wonderful environmental educator, now that she has been re-hired as permanent staff with State Parks.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and hope to see many of you at some of our upcoming events.

VOLUNTEERS—OUR LIFE-BLOOD

Diane Barth

Volunteers are the life-blood of our organization. Much is accomplished behind the scenes with the volunteers who donate their time and energy. Every week John Cole organizes the recyclable items at Armstrong. He especially acknowledges Karen Ryer who for many years has saved and donated from their farm to our recycling program. Bring us your recyclable waste, John will turn it into revenue for Stewards. Recently, John and Lanny Keyston picked up 85 bundles of wood from storage at Willow Creek (we can't split wood at Armstrong this time of year because of Spotted Owls). They will continue to make sure there is plenty of wood for campers at Armstrong and at the Coast—another important revenue source for Stewards.

Bill Bambrick and Lanny Keyston have recruited more new volunteers (nearly thirty) for the Trail Crew and Citizen Action Team (CAT) than any other program this Spring (Whale Watch training in November also recruits many new volunteers). The harder they work, the more fun they seem to have. If you are interested in less back-breaking duties, sign up to work one of our festivals this summer, help out one of our visitor centers, or "shadow" our docents on Armstrong Saturday hikes, Seal Watch every weekend and Tide Pool Roving Naturalists on low tide weekends.

Wildflower of the Season

Common Madia, *Madia elegans*

By Norman Hill, Docent

Have you every wondered what those plants were that looked like sunflowers or Black-eyed Susans just west of Santa Rosa on Highway 12, and just south of Forestville on Highway 116? They are not sunflowers, but they are members of the sunflower family (Asteraceae, formerly Compositae), and they are native plants. From a distance, or while whizzing by, you probably can't see that the large dark centers are not all disc flowers. In actuality, the basal part of the ray flowers (petals) are reddish in color; (the rest of the petals are yellow). These flowers can be found along the upper Pool Ridge Trail near the orchard (inside the Loop Trail) at Armstrong Redwoods. Not all of the flowers there will have the dark centers, but you may find some nearby with dark areas on the inside parts of the petals.



The related Woodland Madia, *M. madioides*, blooms earlier and has all yellow petals.

You may still find a few of them blooming in cooler, moister area.

CAL REPORT

Ranger Dave Horvitz, Cooperating Association Liaison

The Northern Elephant Seal, *Mirounga angustirostris*

As you know, the elephant seal on the beach at Jenner has stirred up quite a fuss. There have been many statements, comments, assumptions and misinterpreted observations regarding this seal, which are based on individuals not having a clear understanding of normal elephant seal behavior.



Male Northern elephant seals can weigh up to two and a half tons. They can stay under water for almost two hours and dive to about one mile in depth. Elephant seals migrate twice a year from the Mexican and California coasts towards the Aleutian Islands. This trip can take as little as three months. The seals are mainly solitary when in the ocean spending their time feeding on small sharks, squid and bottom fish.

Natural predators in the water are great white sharks and killer whales. Elephant seals can out maneuver and out dive a great white or killer whale. During certain times of the year seals are well protected with thick fat. Often times the bite from a shark is not fatal due to that fat layer. They do not bleed much since there is not much blood flowing to the surface of an elephant seal when they are in the water. The seals frequently come ashore with huge nasty looking bites which usually heal up just fine.

Elephant seals arrive at their rookeries in late Fall/early Winter to give birth and mate. They do not eat or drink while they are on shore and live solely off their fat. During mating season the males can stay on shore for up to three months. Females stay between five to six weeks.

The females arrive, give birth, nurse their pups for about one month, mate, then leave. The males leave after all the females are gone, earlier if they use up their fat supply and have to feed. The pups are born weighing approximately seventy to ninety pounds and grow to three hundred pounds within a month of nursing. Elephant seal milk is one of the richest, containing 45% fat.

After breeding and mating the seals take to the ocean to feed. They return in the late Spring/early Summer to molt. This takes around one and a half months. Seals are on shore during this time since they are producing new skin. This requires more blood than usual to be flowing to the skin which would cause hypothermia in the ocean. When done molting, the seals return to the ocean to feed and get ready for the next breeding and mating season.

Many years ago the seals were hunted to near extinction by humans. Whalers hunted the gray whales to for their oil until they began looking for a new source of oil. Early captains' logs contained references to the elephant seals being on many islands off the coast of California and Mexico. Elephant seals are relatively easy to hunt and produce oil second only to the sperm whale. They were a good alternate source of oil for the whalers.

In the late 1800s, only a small population existed off the coast of Mexico when the seals were discovered as not being extinct. The seals gained protected status and the Mexican government posted armed guards on the island for this purpose. After being protected for many years the seal population flourished and they have been coming back to areas from which they previously occupied (the islands off the coasts of Mexico and California). As the seals outgrow their rookeries they go to other islands or mainland as the next best place. Their range is expanding along with their population.

During the breeding season the most important thing for a male seal is to become an alpha bull in charge of a harem of up to fifty females and try to mate with as many as they can. They are very strongly hormonally driven to procreate. For the females, the most important thing is protecting and raising their pup. During breeding season the male seals will try to mate with everything. A ranger sleeping on the beach, dead seals, logs, pups, weaned pups, harbor seals are all fair game. Typically the males will put a flipper over the back (in scientific terms FOB) to pin a female seal down bite her on the back of the neck and mate. The males are so large, heavy and filled with hormones to not be very delicate. Female seals are occasionally crushed, suffocated or wind up with a hole in their skull from the tooth of a male during mating. If still pregnant when this occurs the fetus can be aborted and the female can bleed to death.

If males try to mate with smaller seals such as pups or harbor seals they also can be killed. Witnesses state they have seen the elephant seal with harbor seals in his mouth appearing to be eating them. Harbor seals are not a normal food source, elephant seal teeth are not designed to tear and rip flesh (they swallow their food whole) and elephant seals are programmed to not eat while they are on shore. What people are witnessing could be the result of an unsuccessful mating attempt.

After working at Año Nuevo State Reserve (one of the largest mainland elephant seal rookeries) for twenty two years, I do not believe that the seal at the mouth of the Russian River is exhibiting any unusual behavior.

Note: as mid-May R-I has left the Jenner area. If history proves true, we expect him back in July to molt.

WHALE WATCH

Bea Brunn, Whale Mother



Another whale watch season has gone by all too soon. Every year is different as far as weather and whale sightings are concerned. In the beginning of the year we had some very clear days with unlimited visibility (we could almost see all the way to Hawaii). We actually saw humpbacks way out on the horizon breaching and frolicking along with our gray whales who were close to shore.

Our first northbound whale sightings were near the end of February. That was followed by some very bad weather with several cancellations. Short days, strong winds and fog, made it very difficult to see any whale spouts. Our first mother and calf pair was sighted in the beginning of March. In April, we had several mothers/calves frolicking inside Bodega Rock in front of Doran Beach for a couple of weeks. People living in South Harbour were lucky enough to sit in their homes and watch the whales. We also had a couple of whales inside Tomales Bay by Hog Island—something very unusual and to the delight of several kayakers. By the end of April we were treated to several mothers and calves swimming very close by Bodega Head. The calves put on quite a show for us, spyhopping and breaching. We actually watched them swim by for at least 45 minutes. It is hard to say who screamed the loudest every time they came up, the volunteers or the visitors.

Our last weekend was another blow-out so once more we had our usual potluck down at Campbell Cove trying to stay out of the wind. Again, lots of good food and interesting talk. It even got very windy down in the cove so we had “stuff” blowing all over. We all seem to think that this year was a lot more windy than usual, but then no two years are alike.

All we can do now is follow the two humpback whales that have been up in Sacramento, and hope they make it safely back into the ocean. (Note: the whales did find their way back to the open ocean.)

A big thanks to all our volunteers, both “old-timers” and new for your help and enthusiasm during this whale watch season. Hope to see you all next year.

WHALE WATCH TRIPS

On the home page of our website www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org is information about the **2008 Whale Watch trip to San Ignacio, MX**. The volunteers who went this year had a fabulous time. If you want to go, now is the time to plan for it to get a reduced rate. The deadline is June 30th and the spots are filling up fast. Also, if you are interested in a whale watching trip closer to home, the annual **Stewards' Oceanic Society boat trip**, leaving from San Francisco, will be held again this Fall. Call our office for details or to get on the list to receive more information when it's available.

TIDE POOL PROGRAM – HIGHS AND LOWS

The high tides and winter storms eat away at the man-made stairs that connect us to the intertidal at Shell Beach. State Parks is faced with this dilemma each and every year after the winter storms. The best time to begin making these repairs is usually late April, early May. If we start sooner, Mother Nature might mess with us and throw a storm at us, trashing all our hard work. And, each year we have to find funding for these repairs. Before these repairs are made just getting down to the rocks is an adventure for the school groups that visit this incredible treasure.

A small, but hardy, group of docents provide very personal interactions with school groups and act as Roving Naturalists for visitors on low-tide weekends. We need lots more volunteers for this wonderful program. We can get you started at any time.

Docent, Lisa Bacon says, “We are, ambassadors for the Stewards and stewards for the marine environment. It is our job to ensure that everyone has a safe and informative interactive experience with the marine environment. If I impress upon just one little mind the fragility and wonders of the tide pools and how they have a responsibility to be good stewards - then I think I've accomplished something pretty special. It is my earnest hope that this one mind goes on to share with and enlighten family and friends. I like to think we are planting seeds and as these young people mature, the seeds may come to fruition with a few careers in marine science and conservation. At minimum, helping create an adult with a sense of heightened awareness.”

Docents report on school group visits:

Lisa Bacon on a visit by Liberty School District: “I must admit I had some concerns about such a large group in the fragile confines of the tide pools before I came out this morning. I was VERY impressed by your school! The children were very well-prepared, and frankly, just astonished me with their care and interaction with the tide pool creatures. They were all very knowledgeable and engaged. They practiced OUTSTANDING stewardship. Your staff and parents should be incredibly proud of these young people. Kudos to you all.”

SEAL WATCH

Carol Farnes, Docent

Ospreys soared overhead, gliding in large circles over the estuary on the lookout for a tasty morsel, their cries piercing the clear air, plumage shining in the morning sun. Occasionally, one would pull in his wings and in seamless motion dive for the water with jaw dropping precision. Cormorants shared space with seagulls on the shores while two sea lions cavorted in the mouth celebrating Spring with loud barks and playful nips. The tide was about two feet and rising to lap over the newly formed sandbanks which cut the northern lagoon into two shallow fingers. The sea was flat calm with just a hint of fog on the horizon and the breeze was gentle.



Photo by Chuck Honek

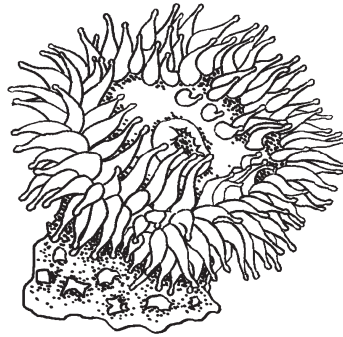
The weather was perfect, but where were the seals? There was no sign of R-1, the elephant seal. He usually leaves at the end of March. But the seals must have known that he was still out there somewhere and stayed away. So once more my shift was thwarted. I drove out to Goat Rock Beach for a nice walk out to the jetty. The wind was picking up and whitecaps were forming, but this did not deter the birds one bit. There was activity everywhere and I got a closer look at the sea lions playing and spotted a couple of harbor seals swimming near the island. All seemed right with the world.

Tide Pool Program

continued from page 5

Joyce Carlson reports on Village Elementary School: "Today was such a awesome day out at Shell Beach with the wonderful group of kids from Santa Rosa. Even with the breeze and overhang of fog in the morning, we were able to safely (we docents teamed up on the rough section of the trail to spot kids, teachers, parents down) mitigate the trail (really wasn't bad at all—but was muddy in places). A different school group was south so we explored north and found many wonders including the great porcelain, striped, shore, & hermit crabs, rough chiton, sea and bat stars, array of sponges, encrusted coral and abundant muscles, limpets, barnacles, and anenomes (giant green, green, and we think maybe a moon-glow). These days are so great to be out there."

Joyce Carlson reports as a weekend Roving Naturalist: "We were out at Schoolhouse Beach this morning as a family of roving naturalists. It was windy, but the tide pools were feasts for our eyes. We witnessed a giant green anemone devouring a pretty large size shore crab. It was out on the rocks a bit under a rock outcropping. So were several gumboot and rough chitons as well as very vibrant sponges (all varieties—even encrusted—wow!). Way cool. We found a beautiful sunflower starfish that had 20 feet of which three were broken off. After reading in the guidebook we deducted that it was during an attempt to escape from an onlooker or predator that it had to break-off its feet to flee. Very exciting stuff. Around on the northwest side of the biggest rock we found many purple/red sea urchins. There were tons of sea stars from bright orange to red to purple. I would say today Schoolhouse Beach could rival Grestle Cove (well almost). There were probably over 100 visitors between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm."



Giant Green Anemone



Hermit Crab

ROVING NATURALIST TIDE POOL DATES

There will be some wonderful early morning low tides from Saturday, June 30th through Wednesday, July 4th (6/30 -1.0 at 6:04 am; 7/1 -1.0 at 6:40 am; 7/2 -1.0 at 7:18 am; 7/3 -0.9 at 7:56 am; 7/4 -0.6 at 8:30 am). Come out to Shell Beach!

WARM WELCOME TO LIZ BURKO

A warm welcome to our new District Superintendent Liz Burko. Liz has a great reputation and we are very excited to have join our State Park family.

How to Volunteer for VIP Programs

Call the Stewards office at 869-9177 or email volparks@mcn.org

Program Activities

Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing
FAR
Docent Tour Guides School Program
Trail Maintenance
Habitat Restoration Project
Pond Farm Interest Group

Sonoma Cst State Beach

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tide pool Programs
Watershed Program
Environmental Living Prog.
Sonoma Coast Citizen Action Team (CAT)

Other Projects

Recycling & Firewood
Office Help & Special Events

Volunteer Program Coordinators

Joyce Bacci, ARVC
Lanny Keyston, AR Trails, FAR
Laura Parent, Pond Far
Linda Fisher Jenner VC
Bob Caricato, Seal Watch
Bea Brunn, Whale Watch
Suzanne Abrahns, ELP
John Cole, Recycling
Vacant, Willow Creek Ed.
Bill Bambrick, Sonoma Cst Citizen Action Team
The Sorensons, Marine Debris
Lisa Bacon, Tidepool Prog.

State Park Volunteer Coordinators

Ranger Shana Gibbs,
Armstrong/Austin Creek
Ranger Jason Smith,
Sonoma Coast State Park

SEEING THE ELEPHANT - FINDING LIFE WITHIN LIFE

Excerpted from a report by Breck Parkman, State Park Archeologist

For several days the African elephant skull that was found abandoned at Annadel State Park rested in the back of my truck, as I awaited the necessary help to unload it. I had anticipated placing the skull in my office alongside the set of lower mandibles which I had put there a few days earlier. I wanted the skull to be nearby for my contemplation and study. Within a few days there were enough of us to finally wrestle the elephant clear of the truck. We four carefully carried the big skull into my office and rested it upon the floor.

Within a matter of seconds, though, one of my cohorts shouted out quite nervously, "There's a snake in there!" The top of the elephant's skull is porous bone with dozens and dozens of little honeycomb-like recesses and assorted cracks and crannies, some of which have undoubtedly allowed access into the inner cavity. Four of us stood around the skull and peered down into one of the recesses where we could just make out a few inches of the snake's diamonded back. We all assumed that it was a baby rattler. I stood embarrassed having never once considered the fact that the small creatures of the forest might have called this elephant home. Concerned that the skull might contain a den of rattlesnakes, still asleep in their winter slumber, my friends and I quickly discussed our strategy. While we talked, an alligator lizard popped its head out of its hiding place and glared at us, before retreating back into the sanctuary of the skull. We were all stunned and I believe that each of us imagined a bestiary of creatures coming to life deep inside this fallen beast of Africa. Fortunately, one of the naturalists in the office appeared, and she quickly set about extracting the little snake from the skull. Not sure at first whether it was a rattler or not, she gingerly pulled it free, only to announce that it was a young gopher snake. She rescued the curious alligator lizard too. With a flashlight, we all peered deeper into the skull and we could just barely see other signs of life in the boney darkness. There were lizards there and likely another snake or two. We all spoke aloud our suspicions of scorpions and spiders, and all the things that go silent in the night. Then we carefully removed the skull from the office building, placing it in a secluded location out back.

The great skull now rests near a stand of trees and a wide pasture inhabited by cows. I can just barely see this elephant from my office window. The naturalist said that as the days grow warmer, the little creatures inside the skull will awake and go walkabout. I wanted to watch them go. I think of the elephant's skull and I suddenly picture Noah's ark unloading its precious cargo. This elephant skull has proved to be a boat, indeed, a great vessel of life and knowledge. In the coming days and weeks, I plan to watch it closely. I want to see the elephant and, in doing so, I hope to learn all that it can teach me. As odd as it might sound, I do believe that this skull, or rather the elephant it once belonged to, is part of our own humanity.

There is more to this intriguing story, but due to space constraints, it will be continued in the Fall issue of our newsletter....stay tuned.

7TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT A GREAT SUCCESS

Bill Dickinson, Co-Chair

The Stewards 7th annual golf tournament was held at the Northwood Golf Club on Friday the 1st of June. After check-in and lunch at 11:30, the crowd enjoyed a raffle with wine, overnight stays, rounds of golf, gift baskets, Giants tickets and many other great prizes.

At 1 pm, 45 golfers teed off in beautiful weather and with the course in great condition. The men's first place award went to the team of Jim McClure, Mike Murray and Roy Texeira. The ladies first place went to the team of Barbara DeCarly, Linda Schmidt, Jan Heller and Carol Cowley. Closest to the pin awards went to Jim Fox and Barbara Hoffman.

The event raised almost \$4900 for Stewards programs and over the 7 year period has raised almost \$28,000.

Many thanks to all who participated or helped in the tournament. Special thanks go to Michele, Annie, Diane in the office for their always ready to help attitude. Also Vern and Gaylord at Northwood and Barbara at Northwood Restaurant were of great help with planning and the operation of the event.

Next years event is tentatively planned for the first Friday in June of 2008. Plan to be there!

(Note: Thanks Bill for always making this such a fun and successful event!)





SUMMER EVENTS WITH STEWARDS

Adventures in Music, Hiking, Paddling & more...

SPECIAL EVENTS

FESTIVAL OF ART & WINE IN DUNCANS MILLS ANNUAL RUBBER DUCK RACES JULY 21 AND 22, 2007

Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm

Join us for a fun summer weekend of quality crafts, wine and micro beer tasting, kids activities, and great entertainment! Annual Rubber Duck Race tickets are available at the Stewards office, and Armstrong and Jenner Visitor Centers. Win a \$3,000 Softub and other great prizes. Stewards is the beneficiary of this event.



BODEGA SEAFOOD ART & WINE FESTIVAL, AUGUST 26 AND 27, 2007

At the Watts Ranch in the town of Bodega

Saturday 10 am to 6 pm, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm

Another exciting weekend of quality crafts, wine and micro beer tasting, eco-booths, and the "Great Fish Expedition." Entertainment this year is outstanding! **Marcia Ball** is featured on Saturday. Sunday afternoon the fabulous dance band **Pride and Joy** will be playing. Fun for the entire family! Stewards is a beneficiary.

OLD GROVE FESTIVAL, ARMSTRONG REDWOODS, SEPTEMBER 14 AND 15, 2007

Presented by California State Parks and a benefit for Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

The Old Grove Festival returns to the Redwood Forest Theatre in Armstrong Woods State Reserve. Expanded to two days, this year's event features a sensational evening of music on Friday with the sensational, Earl Thomas, soul singer extraordinaire opens the show followed by "Skinny Singers", featuring the immensely talented Jackie Greene and Tim Bluhm of the Mother Hips, with Don't miss Sonoma Rep's rendition of William Shakespeare's comedy, "As You Like It" on Saturday afternoon.



September 14, 2007

The Skinny Singers, Jackie Greene with Tim Bluhm and opener Earl Thomas

Gate opens at 5:00, food and beverages available for sale

September 15, 2007

Sonoma Repertory Production of Shakespeare's "As You Like It"

Gate opens at 12pm, Greek Feast after the event

For Greek Feast reservations call Stewards at 869-9177 or email stewards@mcn.org - \$35 per person, limited to 50 people.

PRE-SALE TICKETS FOR STEWARDS MEMBERS – June 1-14

Regular sales begin June 15, limited to 350 people

Redwood Circle: \$40, General Admission: \$25, 10% discount for both shows.

Call (707) 869-9403 for more information and tickets or visit www.communityconcerts.com.



Carpooling is encouraged, bring a flashlight for the evening show and allow time for ¼ mile walk to the theatre. Shuttle service is available for those in need.

Contact Stewards for reservations at (707) 869-9177, or stewards@mcn.org.

www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

HIKE & PADDLE WITH STEWARDS

HIKING IN OUR STATE PARKS

FREE for Members and Volunteers, Donations to Stewards appreciated (\$5 per person suggested)

Armstrong Grove Docent-led Saturday Hikes through September

Noon, meet in front of the Visitor Center, reservations not necessary

(EASY) Take a fascinating tour of the largest grove of protected old-growth redwoods in Sonoma County. Learn about the unique characteristics of the coast redwoods, about the other plants and animals that interact with them, and the effects of time on the system. Also learn about the history of the efforts to protect and preserve this very special place.

Willow Creek Docent-led Hikes

First Saturday of the month of July through October, 10:30 am

Meet at the Freezeout Road entrance in Duncans Mills. Reservations suggested. (Call for details)

(STRENUOUS) Learn about the flora, fauna, and history in this incredible new wild land area.

Fabulous ridge top views. Bring water and a snack.

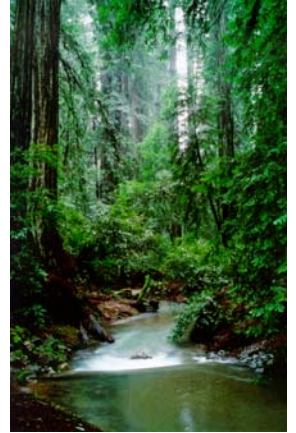


Photo by Russ Whitman

SALT POINT STATE PARK

Shoreline walk with docent Keith Nelson.

Wed., July 4, 8 am to 10 am Independence Day!

Meet at Salt Point Visitor Center, Gerstle Cove. Walk the bluff, explore wildflowers, geology and tidepools. 1 1/2 miles roundtrip, about two hours. FREE for all participants

Red Hill Hike with Docent Norman Hill

Saturday, July 14, 2006, 10 am to 2:30 pm

(MODERATELY DIFFICULT) Meet at the Shell Beach parking lot and bring lunch and water. The hike entails a long, steady climb with a 1,000 foot elevation climb. After lunch at the top of Red Hill we will visit the fantastic Douglas firs, before returning by way of the Pomo Trail.



Photo by Michele Luna



Photo by Rob Helms

Geology Hike with Docent Jonathon Green

Saturday, August 11, 2007, 10 am to 1 pm

10 am, Shell Beach, Sonoma Coast State Beach

(EASY) Take a walk back in time and learn about the fascinating geology and history of Sonoma Coast as well as State Park Archeologist Breck Parkman's theory about the Mammoth Rubbing Rocks. Bring water and a snack.

PADDLING THE RUSSIAN RIVER

FREE for members and volunteers, Reservations required. Kayak rental information available upon request. Beginners welcome. Donations to Stewards appreciated (\$10 per person suggested)

Jenner Estuary Paddle

Sunday, August 5, 2007, 9 a.m. to Noon

With docents Suki Waters and George Zastrow

Meet in Jenner in the boat launch area. A great opportunity to see brown pelicans, blue heron, egrets, osprey fishing, harbor seals, and many other birds. No experience necessary, instruction provided.



Photo by Carol Farnes

EcoRiver Adventure Paddle

Benefit for EcoRing and Stewards

Jenner Estuary Birding Paddle

September 23, 2007

9:00 – 12:30, with lunch afterwards, \$35 per person (additional fee: kayak rentals \$35 per person)

Meet at the Visitor Center in Jenner for an interesting bird identification presentation by State Park docent Mary Follis, then join WaterTreats for a paddle around the beautiful Russian River estuary. View many species of birds, harbor seals, and lovely coastal scenery. Join us afterwards for a pizza lunch.

Contact Stewards for reservations at (707) 869-9177, or stewards@mcn.org.

www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org



EcoRiver Adventures

*From the Redwoods to the Coast along the historic
Russian River in Sonoma Wine Country*

SUMMER 2007

Armstrong Redwoods Horseback Trail Ride & Picnic

Monday, June 25, 2007 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. \$100 per person

Limited to 6 participants, Call for weight and age limitations. Register by June 22nd.

Ride gentle horses through the giant, old growth forest of Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve with naturalist Laura Ayers. Enjoy a gourmet picnic in the park after the ride.

Russian River Paddles with WaterTreks

Sunday, July 8, 2007 9:00 a.m. – Noon

Guerneville Paddle (Steelhead Beach to Johnson's Beach)

\$30/person (Additional fee: single kayak - \$35, double kayak or canoe - \$55)

Join WaterTreks guides for an exploratory nature paddle along the beautiful, meandering Russian River. No experience necessary, instruction provided.

Sunday, July 29, 2007 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Jenner Full Moon Paddle

\$35/person, includes pizza and beverages

(Additional fee: kayak rentals \$35/person)

Experience the magic of the Russian River estuary in Jenner on a full moon. View wildlife, sunset, and moonrise for a memorable experience with WaterTreks.

(Combine the FULL MOON PADDLE & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY
ADVENTURES for a great 2-day experience)

Nature Photography Class with Lunch & BBQ Dinner Armstrong/Austin Creek & Sonoma Coast State Parks

Monday, July 30, 2007 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

\$100 per person, Includes lunch and BBQ dinner in the park

Limited to 20 participants, register by July 25th.

Take photographs of seals and birds at the mouth of the beautiful Russian River; flowers and nature shots along the river; majestic coastal redwoods in Armstrong Redwoods; finish with sunset and moonrise photos overlooking the Armstrong Reserve in the Austin Creek wilderness with nature photographer, Chuck Honek. No experience necessary. Bring any type of camera for individual instruction.



*Events benefit EcoRiver Adventures, a program of EcoRing and
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods*

(A portion of the fees may be tax deductible)

EcoRing is a community based nonprofit revitalization program that protects and celebrates the Russian River ecosystem while respecting the needs and views of the entire community. The goal is to stimulate the local economy while safeguarding our natural wonders.

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization supports the preservation of the State Parks in the Russian River District through education and stewardship programs.

For Information and Reservations:

707.869.Eco3 (3263), stewards@mcn.org, www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

FALL 2007

Jenner Estuary Birding Paddle

September 23, 2007, 9:00 – 12:30, with pizza lunch afterwards, \$35 per person
(Additional fee: kayak rentals \$35 per person)

Meet at the Visitor Center in Jenner for an interesting bird identification presentation by State Park docent Mary Follis, then join WaterTreks for a paddle around the beautiful Russian River estuary. View many species of birds, harbor seals, and lovely coastal scenery. Join us afterwards for a pizza lunch.

Other Adventures



Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

For Information: stewards@mcn.org, www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org

Weekly Docent-led walks through Armstrong Redwoods

Every Saturday at noon, (June through October)

Meet at the visitor center in the entry parking lot. Donations accepted.

Join docents for a 2-mile round trip easy walk through the ancient giant redwoods at Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve.

Monthly Docent-led hikes in Willow Creek State Park

First Saturday of the month at 10:30 a.m. (June – October) Donations accepted.

Register by the Friday morning before to receive directions. Bring water and lunch or snack.

Hike the 3-mile loop on the Islands in the Sky trail with magnificent coastal views.

Coastwalk

Sonoma Coast Family

For Information: wataraja@coastwalk.org, www.coastwalk.org

July 18-21, 2007, Adults: \$245, Children: \$129

3 nights camping, 3 dinners, entrance fees, guided activities along Sonoma's Coast including Fort Ross and Salt Point State Parks. Led by interpreter and Biologist Peter Leveque.

Women's Wine Country Weekend

September 28 – October 1, 2007. Adults: \$409

A Sonoma County weekend of coastal hikes, luscious fare and final local wines! Two nights camping and one night's stay at the cozy Creekside Inn.

Occidental Arts and Ecology Center

Many Classes and Workshops – located in Occidental

Arts, Biodiversity, Intentional Community & Group Process, Permaculture, Water Institute Classes

For Information: oaec@oaec.org, www.oaec.org

Daily Acts

Sustainability Tours

Tours and workshops focused on Northern California's finest ecological and social visionaries

For information: ellen@daily-acts.org, www.daily-acts.org

In Appreciation of our Donors

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California Community Forest Foundation
California State Coastal Conservancy
California State Parks Foundation
Dean Witter Foundation
EcoRing - Russian River Redevelopment
Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
Michael Lee Environmental Foundation
REI
Save-the-Redwoods League

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Four Points Sheridan
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Kaffe Mocha
Northwood Golf Course
Sharp Electronics
Windsor Golf Club

VISITOR CENTER CORNER

Annie Cresswell

Happy Summer to all! The sun has been out and the wildflowers are in bloom. The birds seem to sing a little louder now that it's Summer. While you are out and about trying to escape the hot Summer heat, stop into the visitor center at either Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve or Sonoma Coast State Park in Jenner to see some of the new items available. We have a new tee-shirt that is making a popular debut. The shirt has an image of a redwood tree and a nice saying, "Advice from a Tree." It reminds us to "stand tall," "sink your roots deep," and "enjoy the view." Very good advice to remember.

We have also just added a new book, *The Wild Trees, A Story of Passion and Daring* by Richard Preston. Once I started the book, I couldn't put it down. It is about a group of daring botanists and amateur naturalists that found a lost world above California. They voyage into the canopy of ancient coast redwood trees to find a vertical Eden. It chronicles their exploration, trials, and tribulations. It is both entertaining and educational. A great summer read.

Another great book for more advanced young readers is, *Girls Who Looked Under Rocks* by Jeannine Atkins. This book outlines the lives of six pioneering naturalists. It is very inspiring for young people to see how these six women grew up to become award-winning scientists and writers in a time when women weren't encouraged to seek careers in these fields.

As always we also carry many great gift ideas for the outdoor enthusiast in your life. There are travel mugs, tee-shirts, hats, reference books, and nature cards. Your purchases at the visitor centers are another great way to support Stewards. **Members now receive a 20% discount (just show your membership card to start your savings).**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Patron - \$200 plus
Art Carter

Business \$100

Jane Campbell
Tom & Susan McNeil

Supporting \$100

Kim Piste & John Lyhne
Irene Stewart

Contributing \$50

Leo & Jolayne Copper
Gary & Denise Mezzanares
Tim Pile
John Schultz
Carol & Doug Seiberling

Family

Jeffery Friant
Heather M. D. Greer
H. Hickenlooper & V. Hanelt
William & Lucy Kortum
Ursula Nibblett
Donna & Richard Orlowski
Debra Sally & Ken Ling

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Susanna & Philip Barlow
Paul & Sherry Eklof
Glenn Finch
Andrea Kaufman
Shirley Lipton
Al Lustig
Jolane Schneider
Caara Shayne
George Zastrow

Senior/Student

Anita Bishop
Carole Gerst
R. & E. Hawthorne
Jennell Parr
Kathy Pooler
Kathy Pouler
E. Ravenscroft
Joan Sipe
Daniel Turner
Virginie Walsh
Gary Warden
Patricia Westerman
Thomas Hill
Jesse House

Stewards members receive this quarterly newsletter with information about District parks, special events for members and opportunities for volunteering. Members are also entitled to 20% discount on purchases at Stewards run visitor centers and at special events.

VIP docents earn annual day-use passes.

COMMUNITY SMART CARDS

are available from Stewards. Businesses who participate donate a percentage to our organization.

To sign up go to www.communitysmart.com or contact the office.

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Membership Form

Renewal

YES, I'd like to become a member.

- Senior/Student \$20.00
 Individual \$25.00
 Family \$35.00
 Contributing \$50.00
 Supporting \$100.00
 Business \$100.00
 Patron \$200.00 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 Volunteerism

With your help future generations will enjoy quality interpretation through "Volunteers in Parks" programs for many years to come. A gift to Stewards is the simplest form of giving from your estate. There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Sample:

I hereby give and bequest 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 _____

For Information on contributing to Stewards' Endowment for the Armstrong Restoration Project, please contact Michele Luna at the Stewards office (707) 869-9177.

CALL 800-320-0476 TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION IN THE NAME OF
 STEWARDS OF THE COAST AND REDWOODS

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430

(707) 869.9177, FAX (707) 869.8252

stewards@mcn.org, stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org



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