Community Education Programs & Volunteer Trainings

2020
Table of Contents

Volunteer in Your State Parks ................................................................. 2
Stewards Promotes, Protects & Restores Your State Parks ................. 2
How You Can Help ......................................................................................... 3
How to Register .............................................................................................. 4
One-On-One Trainings ................................................................................... 5
2020 Schedule ................................................................................................ 6
Event Locations ............................................................................................. 18

Photos courtesy of Kevin O’Connor, Joan Bacci, and various staff & volunteers.
Volunteers are the foundation of the work we do for State Parks. Without these dedicated individuals, our open spaces would cease to thrive. That is why Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) is pleased to offer a new year of volunteer opportunities where you can get involved with your State Parks!

Within this guide are opportunities for:
- Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
- Austin Creek State Recreation Area
- Sonoma Coast State Park
- Willow Creek Watershed

Together, we can build a sustainable partnership between people and their parks. We are honored to work with you!

In 1985, a 600 million gallon sewage spill into the Russian River by the City of Santa Rosa prompted a group of passionate environmentalists to be concerned for the ecological repercussions. As a result, locals came together to monitor and protect the harbor seal colony and the first Stewards’ program was born: Seal Watch.

Now going 35 years strong, Stewards has over 20 education, stewardship and citizen science programs available to the public. We are proud to be an environmental and interpretive nonprofit organization that works in partnership with California State Parks in the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District to support volunteer, education and stewardship programs. We are comprised of an active Board of Directors, Executive Director, Administrative Staff, Programs Staff, Field Operations Staff and a growing network of 270 volunteers and 2,000 supporters.
How You Can Help

Our State Parks are able to thrive because of YOU! Your support helps engage students and the community in the important work of being good stewards of our natural and cultural resources. Together, we are able to educate and serve over 111,000 park visitors and 8,000 school children annually. Make a difference today by:

Giving a Tax-Deductible Gift
Preserve your State Parks by making a one-time gift or a monthly, quarterly or annual recurring gift. Options include:

- Providing general operating support or funding for a specific program
- Honoring or memorializing loved ones on a picnic table
- Giving appreciated stock
- Designate Stewards as a beneficiary on your IRA
- Donating items to our bi-annual auctions

Note: Monetary gifts of $35 and above are eligible for membership benefits, and monetary gifts of $500 or more receive two reservations to the annual Old Grove Festival.

Becoming a Member
As a member of Stewards you become part of our ongoing effort to preserve Russian River Area State Parks. Your annual membership provides sustainable funding that we count on each year. Membership benefits include a 20% discount in our Armstrong Redwoods and Jenner visitor centers and our Forest to the Sea Nature Store as well as reservations to our various annual events.

Becoming a Sponsor
Sponsorships help defray the costs associated with special fundraising events and activities. As a sponsor you receive acknowledgment and benefits throughout the year, including a presence on all Stewards promotional materials, our sponsor banner at special events, your business logo on our website, and special event reservations and vouchers.

Becoming a Volunteer
Want to be more involved? Stewards invites you to join one of our 20+ education, stewardship and citizen science programs. From natural resource management and animal protection to special event coordination and visitor services, we'll help you find the right fit! If you don't see a volunteer training listed in our brochure or on our website, please contact us (some programs offer one-on-one training or have limited availability).

Join us today at www.StewardsCR.org!
How to Register

Registering Online
Quickly access information and register for orientations, trainings, seminars, EcoAdventures and other events through www.stewardscr.org. For assistance, please contact our office. By registering you'll receive a reminder email with additional information and updates prior to the event. Applications for Summer Youth Programs can be downloaded online.

Registering Over the Phone
You may also sign up for all events over the phone at (707) 869-9177.

Drop-Ins
Early registration is encouraged prior to attending as this helps us gauge public interest, prepare materials, and keep in contact with you should there be any schedule changes. Drop-ins, however, are welcome. If you are a member of Stewards or bringing guests with you, please inform the staff member taking attendance at the event so they may adjust your fees accordingly.

Membership Discounts
Current Stewards members receive FREE attendance to one community education seminar ($20 value) of their choice per membership year, plus a 20% discount on other seminars, nature store items and our online shop. When registering online your membership discount will be deducted at checkout. Let a staff member know you are using your membership discount if you register by phone or in person.

Cancellation Policy
Please check your email often in case of event cancellations due to weather or other circumstances. Refunds are only given if we cancel or you cancel with 48 hours notice. Credit for future or rescheduled events may be given upon cancellation. Certification Courses may have a different cancellation policy.

Photo: Joan Bacci
Visitor Centers, Welcome Center & Nature Store

Between our Visitor Centers at Armstrong Redwoods (ARVC) and Jenner (JVC), the Lizzie Armstrong Jones Welcome Center next to the ARVC, and the new Forest to Sea Nature Store (F2S) in downtown Guerneville, Stewards is looking to expand our awesome team of visitor service volunteers. This is your chance to meet people from all over the world while talking about your favorite parks! (Particular need for F2S volunteers on weekends. Volunteer shifts are flexible.)

Trail Crew

The Stewards Trail Crew has been assisting State Parks with trail maintenance, bridge building and other important projects since 1993. This active group, of men and women of all ages, comes together monthly to tackle stewardship projects in Armstrong Redwoods, Austin Creek, and at Sonoma Coast State Park, including the Willow Creek watershed. Under the expert leadership of Program Coordinator Bill Bambrick and Field Operations Manager Scotty Lawyer, the Trail Crew works hard to maintain and restore these beautiful open spaces. Volunteers may receive specialized training so they can operate restricted equipment, such as chain saws and drive state vehicles.

Special Events

Stewards puts on a number of outreach and fundraising events each year to promote our environmental ed and stewardship programs. Volunteers are needed to staff our resale booths, food and alcohol tents, and assist with event set-up. Get backstage access and other perks when you sign up to help!

Office Volunteers

Stewards has revitalized our Office Volunteer Program! With so many ongoing programs, we need extra help with orientation and training prep, pricing merchandise for our nature stores and other clerical duties that will relieve the busy workload of our staff. Volunteers are scheduled most days of the week in advance.

To get started, contact us at Stewards@StewardsCR.org!

stewards@stewardscr.org ● 707-869-9177 ● www.stewardscr.org
Mushrooms of Armstrong Redwoods Field Seminar

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members

Meets: Saturday, January 11
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

Instructor: Kingman Bond-Graham, SOMA President

The fungi found in forests dominated by Sequoia sempervirens and Pseudotsuga menziesii vary from Mycena at the beginning of our wet season to colorful Hygrocybe in midwinter and Craterellus in early Spring. There will be opportunities to discuss the fruiting sequence as it varies every month. Come walk with Kingman, as he discusses the types of mushroom and fungi that can be found in Redwood Forests.

Viola adunca Monitoring Training and Orientation

Fee: FREE

Meets: Saturday, January 11
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

Instructor: Chris Heintzelman, State Parks Environmental Scientist

Join Chris as he orients new volunteers who are interested in helping State Parks monitor the host plant Viola adunca for the endangered Silverspot Butterfly. Requirements include the ability to use a smart phone to collect data (volunteer must provide), wear a vest while on duty and provide a schedule on which days they will monitor.
General Volunteers in Parks Program Orientation - Three Offerings

Fee: FREE

Meets: Saturday, January 25 or April 4 or October 10
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

Instructor(s): Stewards Staff & Program Coordinators

This General Orientation covers available volunteer opportunities in the southern Russian River Sector of the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast District. Meet our program coordinators and learn about the perks of volunteering. Note: One General Orientation is REQUIRED for all new volunteers.

Steward Ship/Mobile Marine Van Docent and Driver's Training

Fee: FREE

Meets: Saturday, January 25
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

Instructor(s): Stewards Staff and Docents

Make a difference at schools, fairs, festivals and community events by educating the public about Russian River State Parks, Stewards and the diverse natural and cultural resources stewarded. Are you interested in driving the Steward Ship and/or just participating in retail sales at festivals that reach a broad public on issues of education, conservation and stewardship? Attend this orientation to learn how.
Redwood Ed - Two offerings

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meets: Fri., February 7 or Sat., October 3, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
Instructor: Mike Roa is a retired teacher and author of *Redwood Ed, A Guide to the Side of the Sea* and *The Conifer Connection*.

The workshop is useful for classroom teachers, docents and outdoor educators. Participants will receive a CD of Redwood Ed, a 400+ page guide to teaching about redwoods as well as other materials. You will practice activities and increase your understanding of outdoor environmental education.

Armstrong Docent Training

Fee: Free
Meets: Fri., February 7 - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

This will include an introduction to the Next Generation Science Standards and what standards are fulfilled by what activities. A demonstration of activities curated by fellow volunteers and programs staff will be provided.

Marine Mammal Seminar and Free Seal Watch Docent Training

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members - Seminar only
Meets: Saturday, February 22, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM - Seal Watch Training (FREE)
Jenner Community Center
Instructor(s): Dr. Sarah Allen (Marine Ecologist for National Park Service)
Mary Follis and Greg Armstrong (Docent Training)

This seminar will cover topics relevant to California’s marine mammals (harbor seals, sea lions, elephant seals, and gray whales).

The seminar will be followed by a Seal Watch training, a program that provides education and protection for these amazing marine mammals.
UC California Naturalist Certification Course

Fee: $456.00 members, $570.00 non-members (includes tuition & certificate, $34.95 handbook sold separately in our e-store)

Field Trips:  
Sunday, February 23  
Sunday, March 15  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
Locations TBA

Classroom:  
Tuesdays, February 25  
March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31  
April 7, 14, & 21  
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office/TBA

Campout:  
April 3 - 5  
Bodega Dunes Campground & Bodega Marine Lab

Instructor(s):  
David Berman (Sonoma County Water Agency), Meghan Walla-Murphy (Ecological Consultant) & guest lectures (TBA)

This 40+ hour course combines classroom and field experiences. Discussion topics include geology, water, weather, soils, plants, forests, wildlife, interpretation, environmental issues, and citizen science. Students commit to weekly homework assignments and complete a capstone project of their choosing. For more information contact Stewards at: (707) 869-9177 or kat@stewardscr.org.

Tidepool Volunteer Orientation and Field Seminar

Fee: FREE

Classroom:  
Thursday, February 20, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Jenner Community Center

Field:  
Thursday, February 20, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM,  
North Salmon Creek/Miwok Beach

Instructor:  
Hollis Bewley (Tidepool Program Coordinator)

Learn about advising the public on safe and sustainable navigation of the intertidal zone and how to model a respect for this fragile ecosystem. Aspiring docents will also learn about introducing school children, adults and beachgoers alike to the amazing life found within the intertidal zone. Peak low-tide months are April through June. Low Tide at 3:51 -.05
Seabird Volunteer Monitoring Training

Fee: FREE
Classroom: Monday, February 24, 1:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Jenner Community Center
Instructor: Hollis Bewley, Seabird Volunteer Program Coordinator

Community science is increasingly important. Stewards and State Parks community science volunteers monitor nesting seabirds along the Sonoma Coast, April through August, and document disturbances that compromise successful breeding. This training will introduce you to the work done by citizen science volunteers and help you get involved in this important task.

Roving Docent & Foot Patrol Training - Two offerings

Fee: FREE
Meets: Wednesday, February 29 (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
Saturday, October 10 (1:00 PM - 3:00 PM)
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
Instructor: Stewards Staff & Experienced Docents

This training will go over logistics and expectations for your interactions with the public as representatives of both Stewards and State Parks. If you are interested in becoming a State Parks Roving Docent, Foot Patrol or Public Assistance Volunteer this training is highly recommended. Gain the knowledge you need to be a freely roving docent throughout the lower Russian River State Parks.
Family Herpetology Talk & Walk

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meet: Wednesday, February 29
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM,
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office

Instructor(s): Brian Lavin, Researcher SSU Department of Biology. He can often be found giving talks about Giant Salamanders and Alligator Lizards.

This talk will cover the basics of the herpetological species of the Douglas Fir-Redwood Forest ecosystem including what species can be found, their life cycles and important information for educating visitors about these reclusive moisture lovers. This includes both a classroom and a field component.

General Sonoma Coast Volunteer Orientation

Fee: FREE
Meet: Saturday, March 7, 9:00 PM - 2:00 PM, w/hour lunch break
Bodega Bay Fire Protection District

Instructor(s): Sonoma Coast State Park Lifeguard, Dr. Sarah Allen, Ph.D. Phil Warren (Marine Mammal Center), Paul Hobi (Seabird Protection Network & NOAA Marine Sanctuaries and Hollis Bewley (Seabird & Tidepool Program Coordinator) plus more.

This orientation covers information for all our Sonoma Coast programs, including Whale Watch, Pinniped Monitoring, Seal Watch, Seabird Monitoring, Tidepool, and Steward Ship. Topics will include ocean safety, marine mammal/sea-bird identification, reporting wildlife disturbances, how monitoring data is being used, dog policy and dealing with the public in a non-confrontational manner.
Pinniped Monitoring Volunteer Training

Fee: FREE
Meets: Tuesday, March 12, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Jenner Community Center, 10398 Hwy 1, Jenner, CA 95450
Instructor(s): Jessica Martini-Lamb (Sonoma County Water Agency), Andrea Pecharich (Sonoma County Water Agency) & Stewards Staff

Pinniped Monitoring Program volunteers collect data to ensure the protection of harbor seals during Russian River estuary activities as they pertain to mandated work required by the Sonoma County Water Agency for the Biological Opinion.

Hike with Mike - Two Offerings

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meets: Friday, March 27 or Saturday, October 17, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Meet at the Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center
Instructor: Mike Roa is a retired teacher, who taught 4th through Post-Graduate. See full description on Page 7.

In this workshop, Mike Roa will share with you how to use curriculum developed for docents to effectively lead Armstrong group tours of all ages.

Pond Farm Docent Training

Fee: FREE
Meets: Saturday, April 4, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
Instructor(s): Michele Luna (Executive Director) & Stewards Docents

Learn about the inspiring history of Pond Farm Pottery and the life's work of Marguerite Wildenhain, first woman master potter from the Bauhaus in Germany. Docents will be trained to give tours at Pond Farm Pottery.
Sonoma Coast Wildflowers

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meets: Saturday, May 16, 9:00 AM - Noon
Carlevaro Way parking lot, just south of Shell Beach
Instructor(s): Dr. Laura Morgan (Naturalist & Author of Three Jewels: A Field Guide to Three West Sonoma County Trail Systems)

A great opportunity to join naturalist Laura Morgan for a Wildflower Hike on Sonoma Coast. Park in the lot just south of Shell Beach, off Carlevaro Way. The hike will go up to 3 miles north to Blind Beach. Participants can hike as far as they feel comfortable. Families with kids are welcome (no charge for kids under 13). Hikers would need to bring fluids and bag lunches. Significant rain cancels.

Wilderness First Aid Certification Course (NOLS)

Fee: $188 for members, $235 non-members
Meets: Saturday and Sunday, June 13 & 14, 7:45 AM - 5:00 PM,
Bring a lunch each day
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/
Stewards Office
Instructor: Daniel De Kay (WEMT)

Learn how to assess and provide first aid treatments for common injuries and illnesses. Instruction takes place both in the classroom and in outdoor settings regardless of weather conditions. Participants must be 16 years of age or older. No previous first aid training is required. Successful course completion earns a NOLS Wilderness First Aid certification (valid for two years). CPR not included. Additional course details are available the reservation page. This course is limited to 15 participants and no recertification for other courses is allowed.
CPR/AED Certification
Fee: $60 for members, $75 non-members
Meets: Monday, June 8
6:00 - 8:30 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
Instructor: Daniel De Kay (WEMT)

This course is for anyone requiring CPR/AED certification. This class covers CPR/AED training for adults and children as well as choking. You will leave empowered and confident in your skills. This class meets AHA research guidelines and infant components can be added if desired. Classes are taught in a hands on and dynamic format. This is not a video based course. The certification is valid for 2 years.

Watershed Education Program Training
Fee: FREE for Members and Docents
Meets: Thursday, August 27, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
Instructor(s): Staff and experienced docents

Learn to lead students in interactive watershed citizen science activities. Includes life cycle of salmon, water quality testing, and benthic macroinvertebrates.
Sonoma Coast Ecosystems Hike/ Sonoma Coast Docent Training

Fee: FREE for Members and Docents
Meets: Saturday, October 17, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Shell Beach Parking Lot, Hwy 1, CA 95450

Instructor(s): Laura Morgan (Author of The Three Jewels)
Breck Parkman (Retired Senior State Park Archeologist)
Scott Lawyer (Geologist & Stewards Operations Manager)

Learn about the botany and flora of the Sonoma Coast, the pre-history of our coastal plains lands and the unique geologic history, landforms, plate tectonics and their significance on our coast during this popular and engaging seminar that doubles as a docent orientation.

Whale Watch Training

Fee: FREE
Meets: Saturday, November 14, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM,
Bodega Bay Fire Protection District, Bodega Head

Instructor(s): Volunteer Program Coordinators

The Whale Watch Public Education Program was started in 1986 by Whale Mother, Bea Brunn, as a response to the public's growing concern and awareness of the fragile relationship with the dwindling population of remaining whales. In this training, you will learn about Pacific Gray Whale physiology, migration, breeding habits, and other facts to share with the public. Docents are stationed at Bodega Head on weekends from January through June.
Other Field Seminars To Be Scheduled

Exploring the Intertidal Field Seminar & Touch Table Training
Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meets: Date TBD  North Salmon Creek Beach / Miwok
Instructor(s): Karl Menard, Bodega Marine Lab
Join a lively session of tide pool exploration along the Sonoma Coast. Dress in layers and bring water-friendly shoes. This seminar is geared toward adults, but children over 7 years are welcome with parental supervision. LT - -0.35 @ 12.27pm.

Tracking: Seeing Patterns on a Landscape
Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meets: TBD
Bodega Dunes Campground
Instructor: Meghan Walla-Murphy (Ecological Consultant)
Meghan will share the discipline and mechanics of tracking while she delves into the “Art of Seeing.” Observe animal behavior by tracking in a non-invasive way to research and conserve wildlife, which leaves both observer and observed at peace.
Plants of the Redwood Forest

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meets: TBD
Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center
Speaker: Peter Warner (Botanical Consultant & former National/State Parks ecologist)

What kinds of flora inhabit Armstrong Redwoods? Come learn how to identify redwood sorrel, fetid adder's-tongue, trillium, calypso orchids, and other under-story plants growing in the shadows of the world's tallest trees.

Birding for Beginners

Fee: $16 members, $20 non-members
Meets: TBD
Armstrong Redwoods Volunteer Center/Stewards Office
Instructor(s): TBD

Learn birding basics: how to spot birds, places to go, finding the best field guides and optics for taking up a new hobby.
Event Locations

ARMSTRONG REDWOODS STATE NATURAL RESERVE VISITOR CTR
17000 Armstrong Woods Rd
Guerneville, CA 95446

AUSTIN CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA
17000 Armstrong Woods Rd
Guerneville, CA 95446

BODEGA BAY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
510 Hwy 1
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

BODEGA DUNES CAMPGROUND
3095 Hwy 1
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

BODEGA HEAD
Westshore Rd
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

GOAT ROCK STATE BEACH
Hwy 1
Jenner, CA 95450

JENNER COMMUNITY CENTER
10398 Hwy 1
Jenner, CA 95450

NORTH SALMON CREEK/MIWOK BEACH
Hwy 1
Bodega Bay, CA 94923

SHELL BEACH
Hwy 1
Duncans Mills, CA 95430

SONOMA COAST STATE PARK
Hwy 1
Jenner, CA 95450

Park information and maps are available on Stewards' website, at park entrance kiosks, and at the Armstrong Redwoods and Jenner Visitor Centers.