

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

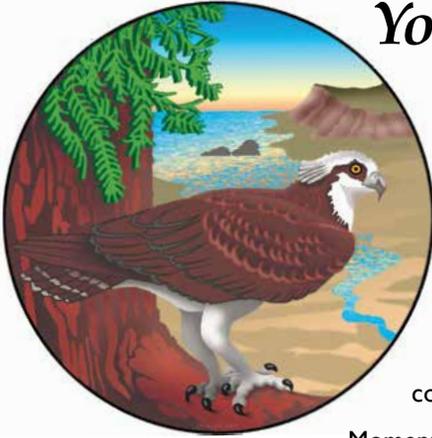
Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXXII, Number 3, Fall 2016

Youth Environmental Artist Summit

April Moran Reza, Bilingual Outreach Coordinator



And there we were... perched upon a picnic table along Pomo Trail, overlooking a shimmering river snaking its way through coastal prairies and into the Pacific. Together, we sat, allowing the prodigious view to sink in. Collectively, we rested and tuned in as volunteer Debra Lopez, an Elder of the local Pomo Dry Creek Tribe, began a session of impromptu traditional. Having community leaders like Debra bring their narrative to the forefront at the 1st Annual Youth Environmental Artist Summit carried invaluable impact. When students were asked if their perception about their role in the community had changed, one responded, "I know that any and everyone has a role in their community; a role that was brought up to my attention was having a voice and using it."

Moments like these are what made Y.E.A.S. so distinct. Fourteen students and over thirty-five helpers, presenters, volunteers, community leaders and coordinators came together to participate and contribute to the creation of Y.E.A.S. I would like to recognize our partner, Raizes Collective, a local non-profit dedicated to creating community by investing energy and resources in creating spaces where voices can be heard, stories can be shared, and artful expression is valued. For this reason, Raizes and Stewards joined forces with the intention of empowering our Sonoma County youth to become the next generation of environmental leaders to catalyze creative change in our community. During this four day – three night camping summit, our goal was to provide workshops focused on education, exposure and empowerment. Our hope - to proactively create a culture of stewardship that will lead to innovative change.

There were a total of 12 workshops provided, not including impromptu teaching moments along the way. Workshops ranged in theme from watershed ecology to yoga, from civic engagement to outdoor ethics, from a salmon life cycle mural painting, to self-made camp packet meals, from kayaking to an overview of the California State Park system delivered by Sonoma Coast State Park's very own Ranger Ben. Many students were first time campers who gained new skills and valuable knowledge. "I learned how to build a tipi, and put



Marisol Juarez paints the Salmon Life Cycle Mural

Continued on page 3.

Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores, and Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the Link between People and Their Parks.

State Parks

Armstrong Redwoods State Nat. Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430
707.869.9177, 707.869.8252 Fax

stewards@stewardscr.org

www.stewardscr.org

SAVE THESE DATES

September 17th - Old Grove Festival - www.oldgrovefestival.org

October 22nd - Annual Fall Potluck Picnic:

Honoring Bea Brunn, Long-time Whale Watch Coordinator & Efrén Carrillo, Outgoing Sonoma County 5th District Supervisor
Update on Sonoma Coast Fees by Supervisor Carrillo & State Park District Superintendent Mike Lair

November 12th - Whale Watch Orientation, Bodega Bay Fire

Register online at www.stewardscr.org

December 2nd - Volunteer Celebration, invites will be sent via mail

Time to Submit Your Volunteer Hours

Volunteers are reminded to submit your volunteer hours before the end of the calendar year. Your hours help us with funding and provide you with your annual State Park day-use passes. 24 hours earns a District-wide pass and 200 hours a State-wide pass.

Submit your hours on our [website](http://www.stewardscr.org) or call our office for help at (707) 869-9177.

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E-News: www.stewardscr.org

The overcast skies this past week have provided a hint of fall in the air even though we are almost a month away from the official beginning of Autumn. None the less, Stewards is gearing up for our fall schedule as school reservations start coming in and plans are underway for our upcoming Volunteer Orientations, Trainings and Seminars.

It's rewarding for me to read the articles in this newsletter about the wonderful programs we offered this past summer. Our first Youth Environmental Artist Summit was truly inspiring and our Forest to the Sea Summer Day Camp was fun and exciting for the children who were so grateful to have this free program offered them. Special thanks to April Reza, Sequoia Etcheverry and Jazzy Dingler for doing a great job planning and implementing these summer experiences for youth with funding provided by the California State Parks Foundation.

Our new pre-school program is off to a great start as teachers share their enthusiasm for this new Stewards offering. We have Naturalist Nancy Johnson to thank for implementing this program.

Summer Stewardship

Both our regular trail crew and our annual participation in the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps provided a great start on replacing the fencing in Armstrong Redwoods SNR. The project will continue and we hope to make even more progress during the fall months before the winter rains begin. This project has been made possible by a generous \$45,000 grant by The San Francisco Foundation. Field Operations Manager Scotty Lawyer and his staff have worked hard to keep this project moving ahead during the busy summer months.

The trails at Salmon Creek Beach have also received a facelift by the State Park Trail Crew and Stewards-supported volunteer trail crew. In the months ahead there will also be new signage going in educating the public about ocean safety and how to help with habitat protection in the area. This effort is a result of funding Stewards received from the Sonoma County Water Agency as a result of a lawsuit by the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee.

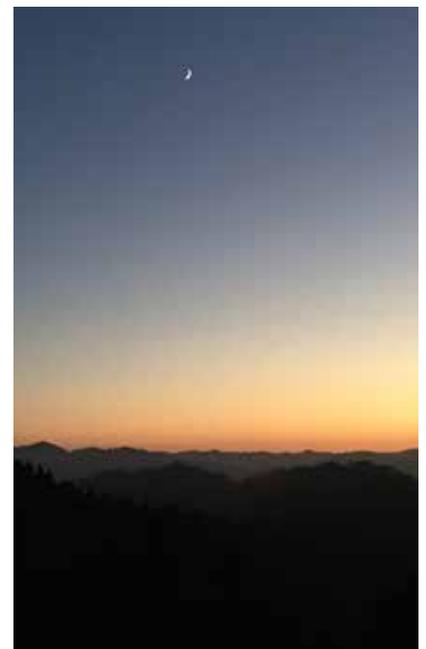
Staff Changes

Stewards said good-bye to Sequoia Etcheverry as one of our Program Coordinators at the beginning of August and is welcoming Sarah Angulo to our team as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Jazzy Dingler received a promotion and is now our Programs Manager.

Fundraising

Our summer special event season is also coming to a close. The annual Old Grove Festival will be our last event, which will take place on September 17th. We hope many of you are coming or volunteering for our biggest special event of the year! (See ad on page 6). This past weekend we did very well at the Bodega Seafood Art and Wine Festival, where our Steward Ship was a big hit. Art in the Park was also a very nice event this year. I know I walked away with some beautiful pieces of jewelry. The Sunset Dinner was also lovely and inspiring at the same time as Pond Farm students shared their experiences at Pond Farm and their own pottery, which was auctioned off.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that our **long-time funder, the Dean Witter Foundation is offering Stewards an opportunity to receive \$25,000 in general support as soon as we match this amount with another \$25,000.** Your support now will go a long way towards helping Stewards reach this goal and provide important support for programming in the upcoming year. Thank you very much for donating today on our [website](http://www.stewardscr.org).



CAL REPORT

Greg Probst, Cooperating Association Liaison, Sonoma Coast Ranger

As the summer of 2016 comes to a close what I will most remember how very busy our campgrounds have been this entire summer. Both Wright's Beach and Bodega Dunes campgrounds filled up on Memorial Day weekend and stayed full up until the end of August. This is the busiest I have seen these campground in the past 12 years. What I like most is the feeling of positive energy inside the campgrounds when they are filled with large, multi-generational families enjoying their summers together along the Sonoma Coast.

This end of summer also has me dedicated to field training one of the newest Rangers to come out of the academy. New Rangers and Lifeguards go through a six month academy before they graduate as State Park Peace Officers. They then are trained in the field for 13 weeks alongside a training officer before they can go patrol on their own. As a training officer, I have the responsibility of a dual role of both evaluating their overall progress as well as educating them on everything from campground operations, dog contacts, DUI investigations to impromptu interpretive contacts.

I am proud to assist in the training of one of our newest rangers. In the minds of most citizens, the title "Ranger," "Lifeguard," or "State Park Peace Officer" often evokes a positive image of a professional who is dedicated to the service of the public. It is an image of a friend, a guardian, an ally who is genuinely committed to helping park visitors achieve a wholesome, safe and rewarding park experience. This image is the reason that many choose to spend their lives as State Park Peace Officers and this image has a great deal of value to our department.

This State Park image and tradition actually began in 1864 when Galen Clark was entrusted as the very first "Guardian of the Grove" in what is now the Mariposa Grove at Yosemite National Park. Our modern law enforcement authority is not in conflict with our traditional image. Law enforcement is a positive and necessary public service and thus, a natural complement to our role as guardians and protectors. I am proud to be able to share these responsibilities with these new rangers who will soon be protecting our park resources and visitors for another generation.

YOUTH SUMMIT

Continued on page 1.



a tent, and work as a group to make a fire. I learned that I can make a difference and how to respect nature while we are in it... I also learned our taxes fund these parks."

There is a special kind of magic that fills the atmosphere when a high school sophomore makes her very first s'more, or when a young man is overtaken by concentration as he proudly tends a group campfire for the first time. Although, the beauty of Y.E.A.S. is not due solely to the experience alone, but in how these students are looking to share this experience with others. "I gained more knowledge about the places we can go to with our families." Another added, "I can put to use the knowledge I gained at Y.E.A.S. starting in my very own household and perhaps expanding to suggest new ways to save water in the homes of my relatives."

As a non-profit working in partnership with State Parks, I understand that it is our responsibility to engage our public with their lands, while simultaneously planting the seed of stewardship as a core value. Stewardship can be applied in the way we tend our lands, and even in the way we tend to our homes, our communities, and our economy. To hold stewardship as a value is to acknowledge the interweaving of our existence, in relation to all our surroundings at this time.

In the age of high speed technology and immediate gratification, there is an ever increasing need to invest time in our youth; to consistently nurture values of self-expression, civic engagement, and stewardship. We recognize that change goes hand in hand with utilizing individual and collective power. Whether taking action means making informed decisions, writing a letter to their local supervisor about the conditions of Willow Creek Road, participating in a mural, following the Coastal Commission decision on coastal fee's, writing poetry, or sparking a shift in the culture of complacency (that has led to the kind of presidential election we are faced with in 2016) through civic engagement, these youth learned that they hold the power to do so. "The organization that stood out to me the most was the eco over ego as well as civic engagement for social justice. I think what they spoke about will resonate in me long after I've left." Thanks to organizations like North Bay Organizing Project and Movement Generation, these future voters learned that their power is in essence, their ability to act.

Continued on page 6.

SUMMER DAY CAMP & MORE

Jazzy Dingler, Programs Manager

Stewards is pleased to implement some exciting changes for the coming year, including rebranding our public education and school programs to better communicate what we offer. All of our programs will now be referred to as “Forest to the Sea.” Working out of multiple Russian River area State Parks, we truly provide an environmental educational experience like no other: one that encompasses age-appropriate topics related to the majestic redwood forests all the way to the deep blue sea, and journeys “back in time” to study the local geology and cultural histories!

Within the broader theme of “Forest to the Sea”, teachers can choose the field trip (or trips) that fit their needs and educational goals. Thanks in part to the Community Foundation Sonoma County, Stewards is able to grow our “Multi-visit Program.” Research shows that children learn best with repetition and multiple exposures to nature. Therefore, we are encouraging teachers to bring their students out to our Parks as many times as they can within a single academic school year. We have had substantial interest in a 3-field trip progression that starts at Armstrong Redwoods for “redwood ecology,” followed by a visit to Willow Creek for “watersheds,” and a final field trip out to the coast to view



whales, seabirds, and explore the tidepools. All of these visits can be enhanced with classroom visits, including reserving the Steward Ship, our mobile marine education van. Our goal is to provide curriculum that shows the interdependence of each ecosystem to one another.

To celebrate our newly branded “Forest to the Sea” programs (and help get the word out), Stewards offered its first ever “Forest to the Sea” Summer Day Camp (July 11th – 15th)! The camp was a week in length, and was entirely FREE to entering 5th-7th graders (thanks to a grant from the California State Parks Foundation).

The itinerary followed our “Forest to the Sea” theme: Monday - forest exploration at Armstrong Redwoods, Tuesday - Tidepools & Sand Dunes at North Salmon Creek Beach, Wednesday - start at Shell Beach and hike the Pomo Trail to Willow Creek, Thursday/ Friday - campout at Austin Creek’s Bullfrog Pond Campground. We truly had a blast hiking, climbing trees, finding banana slugs, exploring the inside cavities of Redwoods, investigating tidepools, and building driftwood forts. We set out to admire the beauty of our State Parks, and each child borrowed a camera to connect with and photograph nature. The overnight was also a success - we had fun building a campfire, roasting s’mores, engaging in Jr. Ranger activities, and producing a one of a kind talent show. The week went by so fast that it was hard to say goodbye!



Wishing parents, students, and teachers alike a wonderful start to the school year, and our docents are eagerly awaiting your visits to our Parks! In case you are wondering, adults can participate in Forest to the Sea education too, and I encourage you to check out our upcoming 2017 lineup of community education seminars and EcoAdventures! Happy Exploring!

FOREST TO THE SEA PRE-SCHOOL

Nancy Johnson, Naturalist



Greetings, my name is Nancy Johnson and I am a Naturalist for Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and an early childhood educator. I am very excited to tell you that Stewards is launching an environmental education program for young children aged 2-6 years old! This program is patterned after the “Forest to the Sea program,” but with the curriculum adapted for a younger audience. The program is designed to introduce the concepts of scientific observation and sensory exploration and appreciation of the natural world and will include classroom visits and outdoor field exploration and field trips when possible. Curriculum will include introduction to redwood ecology and coastal habitats and the animals, plants and insects that live in those habitats. The Steward Ship will provide a mobile marine education center for these youngest citizen scientists

when field trips are not feasible. This pilot program already has a list of pre-schools in West County that are participating with more to come. It is our belief at Stewards that it is never too soon to build the foundation for a lifelong connection to nature!

ALL THINGS WHALE - WHALE MOTHER BEA BRUNN RETIRES

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Coordinator

For the past 30 years, practically every weekend from January thru April or May you would find Bea Brunn at Bodega Head aiding visitors hoping to see the migrating Pacific Gray Whales. Whether commanding the whale poster and exhibit table or the volunteer corps, it was a pretty sure bet if you went to the Head hoping to see whales, Whale Mother Bea would be there to welcome you.

Adorned with multiple whale pins, rings, earrings, necklaces and the requisite whale sweatshirt, Bea would wax enthusiastic about her favorite marine mammal. Bea became a well known figure at the Head and many return visitors ask about her and share stories about her knowledge and helping them see the migrating Gray Whales.

Every year, Bea would educate the new volunteers, and the returning docents, in preparation for a new Whale Watch season. She always kept up on the most recent research and news articles on the Gray Whale. She also sharpened her interpretive skills and vast knowledge of the ocean environment by leading tours from 1985 on at UC Davis' Bodega Bay's Bodega Marine Lab. Bea gave freely of her time and knowledge visiting local school class rooms, giving talks and leading field trips for Elder Hostel and other organizations.

She peppered her Whale Watch docent trainings with entertaining stories from her abalone diving days and pelagic boat trips off the coast. Examples of Gray Whale bones, baleen, barnacles and even whale lice aided educational talks about all things whale.

In 2000, traveling to Laguna de San Ignacio, the premier Baja Gray Whale mating and calving lagoon and sanctuary, was a highlight for Bea and husband Richard. That trip coincided with the year the President of Mexico, his wife and children also visited and experienced the friendly Gray Whales of San Ignacio. Like so many touched by the encounters with the "friendlies" who swim right up to your tiny panga, President Ernesto Zedillo went home to the capital and called off the proposed salt plant there.

Whale Watch, along with Seal Watch were the first interpretation programs and the origin of Stewards, then called Stewards of Slavanka - the Russian name for the Russian River. In the 1980s, the early years of Whale Watch, Bea often was the only docent on the Head, helping hundreds of visitors see whales and sharing whale facts. Rangers occasionally joined her in those early years, until their time was taken up covering the many miles of beaches along the Sonoma Coast. The volunteer corps followed and grew over time.

Reading Whale Watch log entries over the years, words that constantly show up include: sunny, overcast and foggy, rain, calm, high winds, flat seas; whitecaps, balmy and freezing. In other words, conditions at the coast are extremely variable, not just from weekend to weekend, but day to day and hour to hour. Regardless, whales can show up anytime and when they do everyone is thrilled to see them. It really doesn't matter how many times you see these gentle giants, Bea will attest to the fact that our Pacific Gray Whales are always a joy to behold.



Bea with our new Volunteer Program Coordinators Norma Jellison & Rich & Colleen Draffin

Bea's retirement means she will no longer join us at Bodega Head each Whale Watch season. She leaves a legacy of hundreds of docents trained to speak knowledgeably about Pacific Gray Whales, the ocean and the Head. The Whale Watch docents, thanks to her, share a love for the Pacific Gray Whales who grace us with their presence every year as they migrate south and back north past Bodega Head. Thanks Bea!

WHALE WATCH

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Coordinator

Its summer and we are heading into fall. Most of the Pacific Gray Whales are still in Alaska feeding and storing blubber, preparing to migrate south for the mating and birthing lagoons season in Baja. Some remain at several locations along the West coast, particularly Oregon's Depoe Bay. We didn't have any over summering Gray Whales off Bodega Head this year. Humpbacks, an occasional Blue Whale and dolphins have made an appearance. Several pelagic trips in July and August were treated to Fin Whale sightings, a most unusual whale to see this far north.

Any guesses as to how many amphipods a Gray Whale eats while on the Alaskan feeding grounds? How long it takes them to swim from Alaska to Baja? How many gallons of milk a Gray Whale calf drinks every day? All these and other "whale facts" help answer questions posed by visitors to Bodega Head. Some come to see the whale migration. Others, "stumble" on the Whale Watch volunteers and exhibits and hopefully go away fascinated by these gentle giants.

The Whale Watch training for the 2017 season is on Saturday November 12th, 2016. **Sign up on at www.stewardscr.org and come join us from January to May to interpret Pacific Gray Whales.** You too will exclaim:

Thar She Blows!

Volunteer Opportunities

Call the Stewards office:
869-9177 x1# or email
sequoia@stewardscr.org or
jazzy@stewardscr.org

Program Activities Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing
Friends of Armstrong
Redwoods
Docent Tour Guides
Trail Maintenance
Pond Farm Working Group

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tidepool Programs
Watershed Program/ELP
Sonoma Coast & Willow
Creek Trail Crews
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring

Other Projects

Office Help & Special Events

Volunteer Program Coordinators

Joyce Bacci, ARVC
Doris Dickenson, FAR
Linda Fisher, Jenner VC
Mary Follis, Seal Watch
Norma Jellison, Rich &
Colleen Draffin, Whale
Watch
Suzanne Abrams, Willow
Creek Education Program
Bill Bambrick, Trail Crews
The Sorensens, Marine
Debris & Beach Cleanups
Hollis Bewley,
Tidepool Programs &
Seabird Monitoring
Mark Anderson, Foot Patrol

YOUTH SUMMIT

Continued from page 3.



Students choose how they express that power. Our duty as a community is to empower them to do so. At Y.E.A.S., we encouraged students to dig within the landscape of their “inner wilderness”, as Naturalist Sequoia Etcheverry put it, and explore the treasures they already carry. By providing platforms for role models, such as Karym Sanchez, to share a narrative that is both highly valuable and relative, students were able connect. “...It was a powerful workshop. Everyone was gathered by the fire, we all had something to say, many people shared their personal stories, and everyone was listening. It was a safe place to be...” Then the quiet thoughtful student who will speak up and say, “I would say Karym Sanchez stood out the most because we were both born in different countries...” followed by,

“I believe Y.E.A.S. has changed my perception of who I am because I feel more empowered in creating change.”

As much as we need people like Karym to continue assuring our youth that they too can “be the hero’s and shero’s of their own story”, we also need the continued support of organizations like the California State Parks Foundation and the Dean Whitter Foundation, who made it possible for all fourteen students to attend free of charge. Collective change is beautiful, and as the saying goes, “it takes a village to raise a child.” I would like to encourage anyone reading, to plant seeds of stewardship wherever you go.

If you are interested in joining efforts to continue Y.E.A.S. or would like to learn more, please contact Isabel Lopez at raizescollective@gmail.com or April Reza at april@stewardscr.org.

Mitakuye Oyasin. Asi sea

Marguertie Wlldenhain SFO Exhibit Ends in Oct.

Interested in seeing the
fabulous exhibit at the SFO
Museum beyond security?

Date: 10/15/16, 1pm
Reservation required

Contact
stewards@stewardscr.org

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California State Parks Presents
the Eleventh Annual
Old Grove Festival
A Benefit for
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods
Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
Saturday, Sept. 17, 2016
“Next-Gen Americana Showcase” with



**Poor Man’s David
Whiskey Luning**
Gates open 4:30 pm, Food and Beverages
Show starts at 5:30
General - \$30, \$24 for members
(one child free/adult),
Preferred Seating - \$50, \$40 for members
Redwood Circle - \$75, \$60 members includes
glass/drink and private bar

www.oldgrovefestival.org
www.stewardscr.org • (707) 869-9177 • stewards@stewardscr.org
Call if special accommodations are needed

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Easy Walks to Enhance Physical and Mental Wellbeing

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
Wednesday’s 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM
September and October 2016

Meet at the Visitor Center (entrance parking lot)

In Appreciation of our Donors

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Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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95430

Return Service Requested

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

**CALL 800-320-0476
TO MAKE A
VEHICLE DONATION
IN THE NAME OF
STEWARDS.**

For information on contributing to Stewards' Endowments please contact Michele Luna (707) 869-9177 X4# michele@stewardscr.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Membership Form

RENEWAL

YES, I'd like to become a member.

- Senior/Student \$25.00
Individual \$30.00
Family \$45.00
Contributing \$100.00
Sustaining \$150.00
Business \$150.00
Patron \$250.00 plus
Osprey Circle \$500.00 plus

Name(s) _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

I'd like to help with an additional donation of \$_____

Payment type: Check Charge Card Visa MC Total tax deductible donation \$_____

Make check payable to Stewards. Account # _____ Exp. Date _____

Annual Renewal Date: February 1 Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

With your help, future generations will enjoy the State Parks in the Russian River District, including education and stewardship programs supported by Stewards. A gift to Stewards is a rewarding form of giving from your estate. There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Sample:

I hereby give and bequeath to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430, _____ percent of my estate, (or) the sum of _____ dollars, (or) the following assets _____, Tax ID # _____ provided upon request. Contact your legal advisor for further information. There are also other planned giving options for your consideration.