

Pond Farm Artist-in-Residency

Developed by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards)
Program description and application process

“Pond Farm – as a place, a history, and a crucible of ideas – is widely significant and compelling. The arts offer a path forward for Pond Farm’s future use and as a model for struggling historic sites throughout California State Parks and across the country. Bringing artists to live and work at the site again can ensure the vision of Pond Farm is not lost, as well as provide dynamic engagement with park visitors and the broader community.” —Caitlin Strokosch

What We Are Offering and the Program’s Goal

Pond Farm is a special place, originally started as an artists’ colony in the late 1940s, then transitioned to Pond Farm Pottery, where studio pottery artist Marguerite Wildenhain lived, worked, and taught annual summer workshops. Her work and her teachings had a significant impact on the Studio Pottery movement in California.

“If you have the will to learn, and the eyes to see, and the mind to search, someday too, all the facts you have discovered through nature will be visible in your work, whether you know it or not.”

Marguerite Wildenhain, *The Invisible Core*

Marguerite Wildenhain dedicated her life to her craft. After finishing her studies at the Bauhaus she became the first female master potter in Germany, and was a remarkable woman who touched many lives through her work and her teachings. Marguerite strongly believed that the journey to become a true artist was not about learning a technique, but much more about the development of the whole person, an “opening of the soul.” She taught her students for over 30 years at Pond Farm Pottery -- to look and see into nature, to sketch, to discuss philosophy, and, of course, to be truly dedicated to the rigor of the craft – really to teach a way of life.

Much effort has gone into preserving Pond Farm and its legacy, and we are excited to announce that we will begin accepting applications for its Artist in Residence program in the Fall of 2018. Bringing artists to live and work at the site again will ensure that the vision of Pond Farm is not lost. It will also provide an opportunity to encourage a dynamic engagement with park visitors and the broader community.

This is a unique opportunity for artists of all kinds, to be immersed in nature and inspired by the spirit of past Pond Farmers, as Marguerite's students are known, and to have the space and time to create.

Description of the Property



Pond Farm in 1959

Pond Farm is a rustic oasis nestled in the middle of Austin Creek State Recreation Area, which is contiguous to the majestic old growth forest of Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve. In addition to access to the 5,000 acres of inspirational space, residents will experience the grandeur of Austin Creek, a dramatic natural setting near the Pacific coast.

The weather for the nearby town of Guerneville can be found here
<https://weather.com/weather/monthly/l/Guerneville+CA+95446:4:US>

The Site:

The Pond Farm Historic District was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014. The buildings include an historic barn, originally built in the late 1800s, Marguerite's house, which was built in 1952, and the "Guest House", built in 1962 and remodeled and updated in 2018. More details about the site and Marguerite Wildenhain are available in documents on the website www.pondfarmpottery.org.



The Barn is a museum as well as a historical site

Marguerite modeled her Pond Farm Pottery studio on her experience as a Bauhaus student.

Artists will not be able to access or use the historic Pond Farm barn studio. We ask that residents respect the historical legacy of the site, and help preserve its current state by not adding to the site or taking away anything that is there. The barn will be open only during docent-led guided tours, which are usually given once a month. Visitors are asked to register ahead of time on the Stewards' website, which can be found at: www.stewardscr.org.

Artists will be free to work in the guest house or on the surrounding property, in addition to the covered breezeway of the barn.

Guest House



The “Guest House” was originally designed in 1962 and will serve as the residence for visiting artists. The house has been recently renovated and upgraded and is ADA compliant.

- Guest House accommodations include:
 - One bedroom with furnishings and one bathroom, suitable for an individual, or a couple, possibly including a small child.
 - A kitchen with basic amenities
 - A living room
 - Linens are provided
- Residents are responsible for buying and preparing their own food. There is a Safeway in Guerneville – about 15 minutes away. There is a Whole Foods in Santa Rosa.
- Residents must bring any special tools, utensils, or supplies they might need.
- Utilities are covered by the resident fee (see page 7).

Marguerite’s House

Stabilization work and restoration are still in progress on Marguerite’s residence and the house is closed and off-limits to visitors.

What we are looking for in a Pond Farm Artist-in-Residence

Ideally, we are looking for artists who have a connection to the story and significance of Pond Farm and the park. We are looking for someone who wants to bring awareness of

Pond Farm and the state park to a broader audience and who has a deep appreciation for the larger historical and cultural contexts that inform artistic endeavors.

We welcome artists and academics of all types, whether painters, writers, art historians, architects, textile artists, metalsmiths, anthropologists, poets, musicians, etc. Pond Farm is located in a California State Park Recreation Area therefore artwork impacting the landscape such as large scale sculpture and earth art may not be appropriate for the site. Media and processes such as welding may not be appropriate during months of high fire danger. Out of respect for past Pond Farmers and Marguerite Wildenhain, ceramic arts is not allowed at this time.

Giving Back to the Community

Pond Farm was built by like-minded individuals who were dedicated to the arts and nature, and who engaged with and contributed to the community through teaching, lectures, workshops, fireside chats, and collaboration. For Pond Farm to continue its legacy and thrive in the future, it is important for us to maintain and foster this legacy of community spirit.

As such, an important component of this residency is supporting engagement with the communities that Stewards serves, including youth engaged in Stewards' environmental education programs (many of whom deal with socio-economic challenges); the local community of artists and their supporters who live and work in and around the Russian River area; and the general visiting public who learn about Pond Farm through a visit to the area or through websites, social media and press coverage. Most of the target audience will be from the greater Bay area, although it is not uncommon for the park to see national and international visitors.

During the artist's residency, we ask the artist to give back in some way to the Park and the community. It is up to the resident to propose how they would like to engage with the community—whether onsite at the Park, locally with the artist community in Guerneville, or reaching out to schools and/or broader communities in San Francisco and beyond. Applicants are encouraged to include their proposal for how they would like to give back in their application packet. Doing so will increase the likelihood of acceptance.

Examples of engagement with the community could consist of things such as onsite workshops that can take place in nature, or at the Guest House, the conference room at the Stewards office, or in the town of Guerneville. Additionally, there are First Friday Art

Walks and opportunities to show one's work and/or give talks at shops and galleries in Guerneville and other nearby towns.

Eligibility

- Artists, historians, anthropologists, writers, musicians, etc.
- Must be self-directed and experienced in their craft.
- Open to residents of any country.
- Minimum/Maximum stay – 1-3 months
- We expect the resident to live on the property during their residency in accordance with State Park policies, and act in a caretaker role by keeping the property protected, clean and without visible garbage.

Application Process – www.pondfarmpottery.org

- Application form – personal information; whether an individual, couple, or small family, and any specific accommodations needed.
- Work proposal - (What, Why, How) no more than one page outlining the project to be completed at Pond Farm
- Artist statement: one page
 - Describe your history and involvement in your craft
- Images of work - please submit up to 10 jpegs, no more than 1mb each or 1 document with up to 5 poems and/or 5 pages of prose for writers.
- Describe what kind of equipment/supplies you plan on bringing to work on the project
- Duration and start date of residency request - minimum 1 month, maximum 3 months to start at the beginning of a given month.
- Proposal for how to engage in the local community. What to give back? (e.g., a piece of art, hold a workshop, etc.) – one page

Facilities

- Workspace access – barn's side room and breezeway; in areas of Armstrong Redwoods SNR and Austin Creek SRA during regular visitor open hours.
- 24/7 access to the site and guest house
- Internet and phone are available on site.
- Cell service with AT&T, others are spotty in hilly terrain.
- Internet, access to a printer and AV equipment are available at the Stewards Office/Volunteer Center in Armstrong Redwoods during the workweek or at the

Ranger's Operations Center on the weekends (across the street from the Armstrong Woods Visitor's Center)

- Artists must provide their own transportation. The road leading up to Pond Farm from Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve is an unpaved county road and not maintained. It is a steep grade with several hairpin turns.

Supplies

Artists are responsible for bringing all supplies and materials to do their artwork.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I bring my pet to Pond Farm with me?

No pets are allowed at Pond Farm due to its remote location and the fact that your pet could be in danger from wild animals. In particular, dogs, who are carnivores, give off scents that can cause the wildlife to be displaced from their natural corridors. If a resident has a special need that their service animal performs for them, they can bring their animal with them. Documentation is required.

Are there other residents close to Pond Farm?

Quite a few people access their private property in Austin Creek SRA. The closest neighbors to Pond Farm are quite close as the crow flies but a few miles away by vehicle. Both neighbors have phones and there is also a State Park Ranger that lives close to Bullfrog Pond Campground, which is a few miles up the road. There is also a camphost with a phone at the campground during the summer on the weekends.

Is there a fire danger at Pond Farm?

Pond Farm is in a wilderness area in Austin Creek State Recreation Area and at risk for wildfires. Stewards and State Parks have implemented many fire prevention precautions including banning fires in the backcountry and in the campground during high fire times of the year. Pond Farm itself has multiple fire extinguishers on site and smoke alarms in the guest house. There are emergency notification procedures in place to alert residents of a fire in the event it should happen.

As an Artist in Resident do I need to follow all the usual State Park rules?

Yes, all State Park rules apply and residents are responsible for knowing the rules. Residents must adhere to the open and closed times in order to access park facilities. Access to and from Pond Farm is available 24 hours a day.

Can I have guests visit me at Pond Farm?

You are welcome to have guests visit you during open park hours but there is not room for guests to spend the night. Bullfrog Pond Campground is close to Pond Farm and reservations can be made at www.hipcamp.com for visitors' accommodations. There are other accommodations available in Guerneville. For information visit www.russianriver.com.

Artists will have access to special events sponsored by Stewards. See website for event listings. www.stewardscr.org.

Fees

Access application at: <https://www.submittable.com>

Application fee - \$25

Guest House Accommodations - \$100/week – covers utilities and services.

Grant/Fellowships – none available at this time.

A Pond Farm panel will review submissions every six months.

The panel will reply to all applicants. Decisions will be made within 6 weeks of the application deadline.

Refer to our website for the current application timeline. www.pondfarmpottery.org

Selection Process

1. Stewards' Executive Director or designee reviews applications for completeness. Any incomplete applications will not move to the next screening level.
2. A selection committee comprised of the following will review applications and fill out a screening form using a non-blind selection process, where they will have access to all information provided by the applicant, not just the artist work samples submitted.
 - a. Stewards Executive Director
 - b. Stewards Board Member
 - c. Local State Park District representative
 - d. State Park Cultural Division representative

- e. State Park Interpretation representative
- f. Local artist
- g. Volunteer from docent program

3. Selection criteria

- a. During the pilot year, former Pond Farm students may be given priority consideration.
- b. Compared to other applicants, how does the applicant's work fit with the site, within the park and with the goals of the Pond Farm Restoration and Revitalization Project?
- c. How creative has the applicant been with regards to their community engagement proposal?
- d. How does the applicant's requested timeframe fit with the schedule of other residency requests?