

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXIV, Number 3, Fall 2017



New Website & Stewards Updates

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Stewards is excited about our new website that should be launching before the end of the year. The site has a new updated look and a reservation system that we feel will be much easier and user friendly. As with our current system, you'll be able to interact with your profile and make changes on your own. Eventually, volunteers will also be able to sign-up for their shifts and track their hours more easily. This is a new feature being developed for us by **Webhelper**. Our staff has been very involved with recommending changes and giving input on how the site should interact with our supporters and we have high hopes that you will appreciate the changes.

The design firm **Hybrid Design** is also creating a new website, within our site, for Pond Farm Pottery (pondfarmpottery.org). Hybrid Design has adopted Stewards and Pond Farm as a pro bono project which ultimately means a donation of over \$100,000 in services to Stewards. So far they have helped with branding for Pond Farm, the invitation for our Sunset Dinner, and the website. Next year, they are also offering to help us design an exhibit about Pond Farm at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts featuring Marguerite Wildenhain's pottery as well as artwork by her students. This will be part of a month long event including the exhibit, workshops, a school program, tours of Pond Farm and more. The event is entitled "Past and Future Connections to Pond Farm Pottery." So far we've received a \$5,000 grant from Cal Humanities in support of the event and we have another \$15,000 pending from other sources. Pond Farm students are pledging sponsorships as well.

Stewards is fortunate to have the support of many wonderful donors who give monetary contributions and in-kind donations that help defray fundraising expenses. All the beer and wine is donated for our events (see page 2 for a feature on **Barefoot Wine and Bubbly**). **Falcon Mike** donated his Adventure Bus as a shuttle for multiple events this year. **Cresco** has donated their generators for the Old Grove Festival for many years. We also receive nonprofit discounts on advertising and some free ads as well. This year's Sunset Dinner was catered at no cost to Stewards by **Oak Avenue Catering** and **Pond Farm students** donated pottery to help us raise over \$10,000 at this event.

As most of you know, Stewards is stepping up more and more to help support State Parks with operational duties along with interpretive and educational programs. We are currently working on a new co-management agreement with State Parks with the hope that this new agreement will benefit our parks and the people who visit them year after year with sustainable funding. Stay tuned.

Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores, and Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the link between people and their parks.

State Parks

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

Contact

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP POTLUCK & MEETING

Armstrong Redwoods SNR Group Picnic Area

Thursday, October 26 at 5:30 pm

This year our Annual Membership Potluck will be combined with the October Board meeting on Thursday evening, October 26th at 5:30 pm. Stewards' members are invited to join the board and staff for an annual report and an opportunity to see the board in action as we consider strategic planning goals for 2018. The meeting will take place in the group picnic area at Armstrong Redwoods or in the Stewards' office/Volunteer Center conference room if the weather is too cool to be outside.

Remember to Submit Your Volunteer Hours!

Volunteers are reminded to submit their hours before the end of the calendar year. Your hours help us with funding and provide you with your annual State Parks day-use pass; 24 hours earns a District-wide pass and 200 hours earns a State-wide pass. Submit your hours online at www.stewardscr.org or call our office for assistance at 707-869-9177.

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Greg Probst, So. Coast Ranger

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Celebrating 27 Years with Barefoot Wines

Interview with Randy Arnold, Barefoot Wines Ambassador

Barefoot Wines has graciously sponsored Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for many years, and continues to help us reach our fundraising goals by providing curated wines for our annual events. We invited Barefoot Wines Ambassador, Randy Arnold, to speak with us about Barefoot's history of support for nonprofits, including our wonderful partnership.

Stewards: Thank you for taking the time to answer some questions, Randy. Let's start with how long have you been with Barefoot?

Randy: Of course, it's my pleasure. I have represented Barefoot Winery for 27 years.

Wow, that's a long time! When did Barefoot take steps towards supporting nonprofits as a way to advertise their product and why?

Barefoot Winery has been donating to non-profits since its establishment in 1986. We thought that supporting nonprofits would be a great way to gain name recognition and loyalty. Besides it just feels right.

Absolutely. How successful has that effort been?

Our goal at the Barefoot Winery is to be the most loved winery in the world. Our support for community nonprofits is helping us achieve this goal. We wanted to show that our winery cares about the same issues that our "Foot" fans do.

When and why did Barefoot start donating to Stewards?

Barefoot started donating to the Stewards in the same year I started representing the winery in 1990. Barefoot Winery really got started in the Russian River Region. We like supporting the Stewards because they take care of some of our favorite parks.

What do you especially appreciate about Stewards as a Barefoot partner?

The Stewards have always been very creative and dedicated in their mission to support or manage our beautiful State Parks along the Russian River and Pacific Ocean in Sonoma County.

How many nonprofits to you donate to each year and how much product does that represent?

The Barefoot Winery donates to over 2,000 benefits in North America every year. We have Barefooters that represent the winery across the U.S. and Canada in North America.

***~**~**

Randy also had some questions for us.

Randy: How does Barefoot's support help the Stewards?

Stewards: Barefoot and Stewards each have their own following, and when folks hear those names together they feel compelled to support both entities. This mutual promotion greatly boosts our visibility and our event sales, which directly fund the development of our 25+ annual environmental education, citizen science, and stewardship programs for youth and the public.

How can other businesses support the Stewards?

There are many ways to support Stewards. One of the most helpful ways is to become a Special Event Sponsor; Special Event Sponsors work with our Executive Director, Michele Luna to pledge a certain amount every year to defray the costs associated with special fundraising events and activities. In return, Stewards offers a comprehensive sponsorship benefits package that includes representation on all Stewards promotional materials, our sponsor banner at special events, the sponsor's business logo on our website, and special event reservations and vouchers. Another great way to support Stewards is through in-kind donations and services. For more information on how your business can get involved, visit us at www.stewardscr.org/cms/pages/support_us.html.



Improved Reservation System for State Parks

Greg Probst, Ranger & Cooperating Association Liaison

Greetings from the Sonoma Coast! As summer comes to a close, Russian River area State Parks celebrate another successful season. Summer 2017 brought some of the highest visitation levels to our campgrounds, redwood groves, and beaches -- especially over the Labor Day weekend.

Summer 2017 also brought a big change to how our visitors make reservations for camping and tours here in many of our 280 State Parks. This change is called: **ReserveCalifornia**. The new reservation system is an improvement to the previous system. For example, prior to reserving a campsite, visitors can now look at a photo of the actual site they want to book. The new reservation system also utilizes current technology which will speed up processes to better assist our visitors.

Another change is how the Distinguished Veteran and Disabled Discount passes are managed. There are new "credit card" style passes that are being issued for current discount pass holders. To receive your discount when making reservations, the pass holder must have one of these new passes. If you have one of the old passes, visit ReserveCalifornia.com or parks.ca.gov to renew. Alternatively, you can visit one of the 47 designated California State Park locations to switch your old pass for one of the new passes and continue to easily access your favorite recreational spaces.

On behalf of California State Parks, I want to personally thank all the hard-working volunteers who assisted the crowds this summer. You helped our visitors create memories that will last a lifetime. We couldn't do our work without you!

Summer's End at Stewards

Sarah Angulo, Volunteer Coordinator

Summer is our busiest season at the parks, with our visitor centers seeing record numbers and our campsites full every weekend. It takes a dedicated team of volunteers working alongside our small staff to make sure things run smoothly. With each of the hundreds of volunteers we have in our 20+ programs, we are able to reach thousands of park visitors and students. Each year, Stewards receives more and more visitors and students, with this year being no exception. Our staff works hard to keep up with the ever-increasing numbers, and it is only possible with the help of our incredible volunteers.

Stewards' humble beginnings started back in 1985 with the founding of our first volunteer program, Seal Watch. Our organization began with the dedication and vision of a few passionate conservationists, and this mindset has carried through to today. All of our programs strive to be almost entirely volunteer-led, with staff here to support their needs. As the end of summer approaches, and my 1-year anniversary here at Stewards comes and goes, I have been constantly amazed and inspired by the incredible things our volunteers do. From standing on a windy beach for half a day on the weekend to teach beachgoers about protecting harbor seals, diligently tracking and restocking inventory at our visitor centers, driving long distances to count our incredible seabirds, pouring beverages at our special events, to maintaining trails in the hot sun, every person I talk to recounts their volunteer experience with a huge smile. I reflect on what board member and volunteer, Bill Bambrick, said: "Don't thank us because it's so satisfying. It's something we like to do!" Such positive attitudes about doing important work for Stewards and State Parks are what make this organization great, and it constantly invigorates the work that I do to give back as Volunteer Coordinator.

As the days grow shorter again and the crowds fade, I want to offer my sincerest appreciation for not only helping us through another busy summer, but also for every hour contributed so far this year. Stewards has some of the hardest working volunteers in the county, and we are so fortunate to have each and every one of you. Thank you to all for a successful summer, and to many more in the years to come!

www.ReserveCalifornia.com



Armstrong Visitor Center Volunteers.

Restoration of Salmon Creek Trails and new Lifeguard Tower

Michele Luna, Executive Director

In 2014, Stewards was asked to administer funding from a lawsuit that was brought against the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) by the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, with regards to the activities being conducted in the Russian River Estuary by the SCWA in response to the Biological Opinion mandated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The settlement in the amount of \$40,000 has paid for interpretive harbor seal signs, signage at Salmon Creek beach and trail work on the north and south trails at Salmon Creek as well as two beach locations north of Salmon Creek called Rabbit Ears and No Name.

New harbor seal interpretive panels, designed by Michele Luna, were installed at the Russian River lookout, north of River's End, at the boat launch near the Visitor Center and at Goat Rock State Beach. At Salmon Creek State Beach new interpretive signs let visitors know that dogs are not allowed at Salmon Creek



in order to protect the Snowy Plovers that nest there. In addition, a new low profile bilingual ocean safety panel was designed by graphic designer Christopher Lods that replaced a worn out, unreadable panel in an old fashioned display structure. The area also now has directional signs letting visitors know how and where to access the trails to the beach in hopes that they will alleviate the trampling of vegetation that has occurred there for years. Finally, Stewards' trail crew volunteers, joined by Surfrider volunteers and some of the State Park trail crew, have worked very hard in the past

few years to repair the trails accessing the beach in four locations. This past week they finished up the work with materials purchased with the lawsuit funding and will utilize the remaining materials to repair other beach access trails in the coming year.

There is still some funding left and the majority (\$15,000) is expected to fund a new lifeguard tower for Goat Rock State Beach. Goat Rock is one of the most dangerous beaches on our coast because of the steep dropoff that occurs right offshore creating turbulent conditions that sweep people off their feet into the cold water. State Parks and members of the committee agree this is a good use of these funds. We expect to convene a public meeting to ensure that all issues related to the lifeguard tower are considered.



Tidepool Season 2017

Hollis Bewley, Program Coordinator & Board Vice President

Stewards' Tidepool programs saw the joyous reunion of many long-time veterans as well as a wonderful infusion of new enthusiastic docents who enjoyed learning about the ever-changing world of the intertidal and sharing discoveries with each other as well as students and park visitors. Our dedicated team of TP Education volunteers, bolstered by Stewards' naturalists, accompanied over 1000 students along with their parents and teachers on field trips to four different beaches this spring and experienced the joy of seeing a child's eyes open to the wonders of this special ecosystem for the first time along with the pleasure of speaking with some young budding marine biologists to-be, while roving docents enhanced the experience of park visitors on low tide weekends.

We've been witnessing the effects of warming waters and the expansion of traditional ranges by seeing species previously noted only in more southerly waters along the California coastline and even documented a new northern record for *Okena angelensis*, a tiny nudibranch only 5mm in length!

Both Tide Pool Ed and weekend roving docent programs are designed to help visitors learn about ocean safety and how to explore this precious ecosystem with the well-being of both humans and the special animals inhabiting this challenging environment in mind. If you'd like to share in the camaraderie of this fun group of lifelong learners, please contact Sarah Angulo at sarah@stewardscr.org for information. One of this year's new docents summed it up well by saying, "This was such a fun season! I personally learned so much and am looking forward to my own explorations and next season! Thank you!"

Seabird Monitoring Program

Hollis Bewley, Program Coordinator & Vice President

The breeding season has ended for seabirds raising their families on rocks just offshore of the Sonoma Coast and our volunteer monitors are enthusiastic about returning for next year's season. They enjoyed being at the coast and with each other and those at two of the sites were treated to observing the development of peregrine families as a bonus. The Bodega Rock group was also collecting data on the pinniped neighbors of the Brandt's cormorant colony and surprised by the numbers of magnificent Steller sea lions sharing the rock with the cormorant colony. Many thanks to Joe Mortenson for his mentoring and invaluable help with species ID.

One volunteer summed up her last shift at Gull Rock this way:

"My last day on the rock and a grand one it was. The COMU's (Common murre) are rafting up, the juveniles are in the water where they will all stay for the next month. The darling PIGU (Pigeon guillemot) juvenile is in the water with his parents, and today we were blessed with the sighting of the BLOY (Black Oystercatcher) parents and their chick! Tried to get a pic but that chick was too quick. Saw the PEFA (Peregrine falcon) and much more. It was so calm and the overcast weather made for perfect light. I'll miss it."

We piloted a new public outreach and education component this season with roving docents sharing views of nesting Western Gulls, Pelagic corms and other birds doing the all-important "Job One" of raising their families. Visitors to Bodega Head, both local and from all over the world, were amazed at seeing fuzzy baby chicks close-up and personal for the first time and seemed appreciative of the information provided by our docents.



Cormorant at Sonoma Coast.



Black Oystercatchers on the rocks.

Our docents were inspired by the experience as well:

"Interactions with coastal visitors were priceless. I watched people really see a living ecosystem for the first time, where before visitors observed the birds, seals, learned how the wind causes upwelling of nutrients etc, they had only focused on the magnificent geography. Watching as a person's experience was deepened and their understanding broadened by just a brief teaching experience was wondrous. Very rewarding and fun for me."

"Yesterday, one local person was excited to see the Western Gull chicks, explaining he'd never seen a 'baby Seagull' before. He shared a story of his years of common experience with gulls and expressed how now, he sees them much differently. Yay! I figure that is

exactly the purpose of this program. What a difference a moment can make!"

"It is so rewarding to watch people's discovery and awe as we show them things they didn't even realize they were looking at. And the way our conversations include such breadth of interest and inquiry."

"People were hesitant sometimes to look through the scope but after a moment or two, and watching others get so excited to see the baby gulls, they would move over and have a look and 'ooh' and 'ahh' with the rest of them."

"Luckily, it wasn't too windy so we were able to keep the scope up the whole time. Part of the time looking at the PECO's (Pelagic cormorants) on their precarious nests and part of the time watching the WEGU's (Western gulls) with their fuzzy chicks. At one point folks were standing in line to see them!"

"So many people were gathered around us asking so many questions, I forgot that we had the extra binoculars to share!"

Anyone interested in monitoring a breeding colony and/or enhancing park visitors' experience by sharing views and information about our local seabirds and other aspects of our beautiful coastline can contact Sarah Angulo at sarah@stewardscr.org. Orientation and trainings begin early in 2018 but you can accompany a team monitoring roosting sites over the winter.



Western Gull and chick.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in a program?
Call Sarah Angulo at
(707) 869-9177 ext. 5# or
email sarah@stewardscr.org!

PROGRAMS

Armstrong Redwoods

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

Sonoma Coast State Park

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

Other Projects

Office Help & Special Events

VOL. PROGRAM COORDINATORS

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

Upcoming Events

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

Watershed Education Volunteer Training

Fee: FREE

Part 1 Meets: Friday, Oct. 6, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM, location TBD

Part 2 Meets: Tuesday, Oct. 17, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, potluck at the Group Picnic Area, Armstrong Redwoods SNR



Instructor(s): Stewards Staff & Docents

Come join Stewards' Watershed Education Program! Our hands-on school program is primarily geared toward 5th/6th grades. Watershed Docents teach about the water cycle, surface erosion, water quality, and benthic macroinvertebrates. Students receive a classroom visit prior to their fieldtrip, and then get to explore either Willow or Fife Creeks. Watershed Docents should be available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays during the Fall (mid-October through early December) or Spring (March through early May). **Part 1** will be a training strictly for new volunteers to review our existing curricula. **Part 2** will be a potluck/brainstorming session focused on adapting the existing lessons for older/younger grade levels, as well as an opportunity for our experienced docents to model field lessons and for new docents to ask them questions. If you cannot make either training but are interested in becoming a Watershed Docent, please email sarah@stewardscr.org.

Pelagic Seabird & Whale Watching Expedition - SOLD OUT

Fee: \$160 members, \$200 non-members

Meets: Sunday, Oct. 8 (weather dependent), 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM, boat departs out of Bodega Bay Harbor

Instructor(s): Naturalists Peter Pyle, Steve Howell, and Sarah Allen



Join Stewards for a full day boat trip out to Cordell Bank on the 65 foot NewSea Angler. This marine sanctuary is a feeding destination for many migratory marine mammals and seabirds. Early Fall is the best time of year for humpback and blue whales. We may also encounter Pacific white-sided dolphins, Dall's porpoise, California and Steller sea lions, elephant seals, and numerous seabirds (including shearwaters, petrels, albatrosses, etc). Boat may encounter challenging ocean conditions (personal discretion advised for those prone to motion sickness) Plan to arrive early - the boat will depart at 7 am sharp.

Note: Space is limited to 40 passengers.

Geology of the Sonoma Coast

Fee: \$16 members, \$20 non-members

Meets: Saturday, Oct. 14, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Goat Rock State Beach

Instructor(s): Scott Lawyer (Geologist & Stewards' Operations Manager)



Learn about unique geologic history, landforms, plate tectonics and their significance on our coast during this popular and engaging seminar with Scott Lawyer.

Archaeology & History of the Sonoma Coast

Fee: \$16 members, \$20 non-members

Meets: Sunday, Oct. 22, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Bodega Bay Fire Protection District

Instructor(s): Tom Origer (Archaeologist)



Join this popular field seminar about the fascinating changes that have taken place from an archaeological and historic perspective on the Sonoma Coast. This seminar will start inside and transition outdoors.



In Appreciation of Our Donors, Sponsors & Funders ~ Nov. 2016 to Present

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Resources Legacy Fund Foundation

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California State Parks Foundation
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Russian River Recreation & Park District
Save the Redwoods League
Marcy & Jim Beck
Oak Avenue Catering

\$2,000 to \$4,999

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Gray Whale Patron

Roland Pesch

Bobcat Business

Isabelle Gass

Contributing Harbor Seal

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Julie & Robert Haugen
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David Atkin
Jade Bojkovic
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Athena Friedman
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Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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

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

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

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

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Membership Form

YES, I'd like to become a member!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

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

Payment Type: Check (made payable to Stewards)

Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover acceptable)

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

Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

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

Example: I hereby give and bequeath to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430, (____) percent of my estate, (or) the sum of (____) dollars, (or) the following assets (____). Tax ID # provided upon request.

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