

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXIV, Number 2, Summer 2017



New Forest to the Sea Nature Store

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Stewards is proud to announce the opening of our new Forest to the Sea Nature store as of Memorial Day weekend in downtown Guerneville. This new retail location is in addition to the nature stores inside our visitor centers at Armstrong Redwoods and in Jenner. Having greater visibility in Guerneville has already increased memberships and put us in touch with more local residents who can't get to our visitor centers on a regular basis. Visitors have been pleased to connect with us and appreciate the unique items that we have for sale and the information we provide. The other merchants in town have provided a warm welcome and they are delighted to have the first two of four new stores open in what will now be called The Plaza Building. Our neighbor, Pamper Me, provides a complement of homemade body products and other reasonably priced gift items. We look forward to the opening of a new wine bar called Equity Wines. They generously give a percentage of their proceeds to nonprofit organizations. A new parcel post and shipping store, with an entrance on First Street, will complete our building later this summer.



Forest to the Sea Nature Store, located in downtown Guerneville, CA.

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

Special thanks to **Fred Luna** who helped put together displays; to **Joe Riedel** for donating and installing shelving, desk space and a lovely redwood counter top; to **Scotty Lawyer** and **Hut Wade** for helping with the installation of the slat wall and other fixtures; and to **Natalie Robb-Wilder** for her inspiration for our first window display. In addition, we are thankful to our staff, especially **Annie Cresswell** and **Nik Szecsey** for doing what was needed to get the store stocked with wonderful merchandise, including some new lovely nature-related jewelry, bird feeders, and pottery made by Pond Farm students of Marguerite Wildenhain. We are grateful to **Linda Fisher** for coordinating the volunteer shifts, and the volunteers whom are working two 4-hour shifts a day, 7 days a week. Our staff are also helping in the store until we recruit enough volunteers to cover shifts. If you are interested and have retail experience, please contact Sarah Angulo at sarah@stewardscr.org.

The additional revenue raised in the Nature Store will provide Stewards with another sustainable funding source that will help keep our programs going strong, without relying on grant funds that can be unpredictable year after year. Come on by and say hi and please think of us when you need a gift for friends and family.

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Executive Director Report

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Now that the school year is over, Stewards is working on assessing all our programs and we are amazed to find out how many students we have served during the past school year. Just at Armstrong Redwoods alone, we've handled reservations for over 6,500 students who used this park as their outdoor classroom. Of these students, we provided docent and naturalist-led experiences for over 2,500 youth. Our Tidepool Education program provided guided programs for over 1,000 students, an all-time high for such a short low-tide season. Stewards handled reservations for another 2,000 students who came out to the coast on their own or with other providers. Our brand new early childhood program served over 400 pre-K youngsters and our watershed, environmental living and marine science programs bring the grand total to about 10,000 students served one way or another during the past school year by our staff and docents.

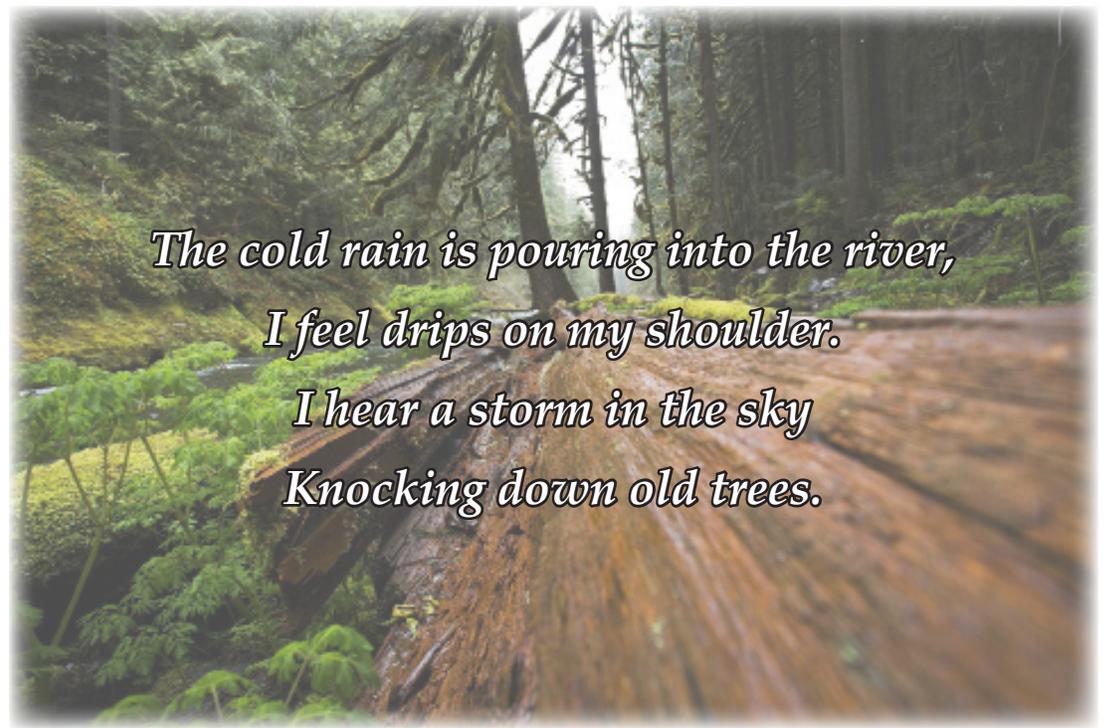
This is where I need to ask for your help. It takes significant funding for staff to handle reservations, coordinate custom programs, recruit and train new docents, develop new curriculum and coordinate overnight camping programs. Our programs have grown faster than we can keep up with funding them. While we raise substantial funding from grants each year, grants can't be counted on every year.

Our summer appeal letter will be in the mail to you soon and we hope that you will consider a donation to help us reach our \$10,000 goal, which will be matched by Stewards' Board of Directors with an additional \$10,000 for a total of \$20,000. This will help us fund our summer programs and also start us off raising the funding needed for the next school year.

You can make your donation through our website at www.stewardscr.org or by mail. Thank you very much for your generosity.



Poem by Harbor Villarreal, Age 5



*The cold rain is pouring into the river,
I feel drips on my shoulder.
I hear a storm in the sky
Knocking down old trees.*

CAL Report

Greg Probst, Ranger & Cooperating Association Liaison

On May 13, 2017, the members of the Jenner Community Center held their annual First Responder BBQ. The J.C.C. initiated this BBQ in order to recognize the efforts of state park personnel (along with our allied agencies) after an aquatic rescue at Goat Rock Beach by Lifeguard Aaron Pendergraft. Last year I discovered that this BBQ was a great opportunity for me to meet and speak with some of the local Jenner residents. I was able to listen first hand to their distinct perspectives and individual concerns.

California State Parks, its programs, services and its natural and cultural resources are an integral part of community public safety and crime prevention efforts. Our department policy states that with our resource protection/public safety roles “state park” and “community” do not exist independently. Both are interdependent parts of a larger, more complex social economic and environmental system. Using this model, State Park employees are empowered to develop and maintain relationships with public agencies, community organizations, businesses, and individuals, to identify and solve problems of mutual concern. The state park aquatic safety program is one of our core services that serve many members of our local community.

On May 18, 2017, State Park lifeguards Tim Murphy and Scott Kwon’s valiant efforts were recognized by Sonoma County Sheriff Steve Freitas for their valiant efforts for their response to a tragic vehicle accident in the town of Jenner. On their Certificate of Recognition Sheriff Freitas wrote, “In appreciation for ... serving the citizens of Sonoma County when without hesitation you jumped into the river to attempt the rescue of two children.”

The many employees of your local California State Parks are proud to serve the many visitors from all over the world and we are also proud to serve and protect the citizens of Sonoma County. We wish all the volunteers, employees and members of Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods a very safe and enjoyable Summer 2017!

Exciting New Volunteer Opportunities with Stewards

Sarah Angulo, Volunteer Coordinator

Life creek returns to its summer sleep underground, late flowers bloom along the forest floor, and new birdsongs fill up the hot afternoons. It must be summer in Armstrong Redwoods SNR! The sounds of school children have been replaced by vacationers, as the season shifts its focus from our school programs to special events. With the change of seasons here at the park, Stewards has added many new opportunities to get involved!

Like parties? In the spirit of summer, our Gourmet Hike is being revamped this year as **Gourmet Walk in the Woods**. Serve beverages and local eats to attendees as they stroll through the grove, ending with a silent auction, music, and local art (sign up to volunteer or purchase tickets on www.stewardscr.org).

Like music? This year’s **Old Grove Festival** needs help guiding attendees and musicians, directing parking, driving the shuttle, setting up the stage, and more (sign up to volunteer or purchase tickets on www.stewardscr.org).

Like the ocean? Get out in the community with our Mobile Marine Van, or “Steward Ship,” and volunteer for the **Bodega Seafood Art & Wine Festival** (sign up to volunteer or purchase tickets on www.bodegaseafoodfestival.com)! The Steward Ship also appears at various beaches along the coast.

Stewards is also recruiting volunteer docents to staff our new **Lizzie Armstrong Jones Welcome Center** in the main parking lot at Armstrong Redwoods SNR. The Welcome Center be open on weekends to start and will be a place where visitors can quickly pick up a map, get directions and learn about the natural resources in the park. There will be a morning shift and an afternoon shift.

We are very excited to announce the opening of our new **Forest to the Sea Nature Store** in downtown Guerneville on the corner of Armstrong Woods Road and Main Street. Store hours are 10:00 am - 6:00 pm and we invite you to come by to see how the store is shaping up. We are looking for additional volunteers to help staff the store and especially need people on the weekends. Volunteer shifts are 9:45 am - 2:00 pm and 2:00 pm - 6:15 pm.

Finally, Stewards is revitalizing our **Office Volunteer Program**. With so many ongoing programs, we need extra help with orientation and training prep, pricing merchandise for the visitor centers and other clerical duties that will relieve the busy workload of our staff. We would like to schedule volunteers to help during time blocks on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We encourage all new volunteers to attend one **General Volunteer in Parks Program Orientation** (upcoming dates are June 24th and August 19th). For information, please contact me at sarah@stewardscr.org. I hope to see you soon!



The recently renovated Lizzie Armstrong Jones Welcome Center in Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve.

2017 Community Education Offerings

Jazzy Dingler, Programs Manager

Once again, our Stewards calendar is jam-packed with events! At the beginning of the year, we launched a new lineup of **Community Education & Volunteer Trainings** that started with **First Day New Year's Hikes** in January and will end with our **Whale Watch Training** in November. Now that the school year is over and summer is just around the corner, our staff are also conducting a **Forest to the Sea Summer Day Camp** and **Youth Environmental "Artist" Summit**. But wait, there's more!



2017 Stewards Cal Naturalist class at their Bodega Dunes campout.

Stewards is excited to present two new EcoAdventures. The first is our **Fall Equinox Star Party Campout** led by astronomers Jim Goodenough and Linda Sinkay from Wine Country Star Party. Bring the entire family out to Austin Creek's Vista Point to learn about the universe, solar system, and constellations. Families wanting to spend the night should book a campsite at Bullfrog Pond Campground (www.hipcamp.com) well in advance. The second EcoAdventure is a **Pelagic Seabird & Whale Watching Expedition** from Bodega Bay Harbor out to Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. We will be joined by expert naturalists: Peter Pyle (marine scientist and ornithologist, best known for his two part *Identification Guide to North American Birds*), Steve Howell (a world-renowned expert on seabirds), and Dr. Sarah Allen (marine ecologist for the National Park Service). All three have years of leading tours, and have authored guide books, scientific and popular articles. Bring copies of your favorite publications to get signed!

Stewards expanded our **Certifications & Workshops** in an effort to elevate our professional and continuing education adult offerings. Stewards had the honored distinction of offering the **100th UC Cooperative Extension California Naturalist Certification Course!** Coincidentally, the very first California Naturalist course was also offered in beautiful Sonoma County. Co-instructors, Meghan Walla-Murphy and David Berman, have been teaching California Naturalist courses since 2013. Copies of the California Naturalist Handbook can be purchased at our Visitor Centers, *Forest to the Sea Nature Store*, or through our E-store. We also offered a **Project Learning Tree Workshop** for the first time, and presented new redwood climate science curricula geared for high school students. Another new workshop was the **TREAD Lightly! Trainer Course**. This hands-on course focused on ways to promote stewardship and responsible land/water recreation. Even though Armstrong Redwoods isn't a designated motorized recreation park, the information presented largely mirrored teachings from our **Public Relations 101** volunteer training, and was applicable for educating visitors about important rules and regulations (e.g., dogs in parks, people hiking off trails, kayaking near harbor seals, drones near nesting seabirds, etc.). The course leaders, Father Naylor and Brenton Corns, covered different ways to convey ideas; reviewed the difference among "training," "teaching," and "educating" the public regarding desired behaviors; and taught docents how to build credibility, use logic, and address emotions. These techniques are effective in persuading/motivating people, improving retention, and building new skills that ultimately lead to committed action. Our final certification course for 2017 is the **NOLS Wilderness First Aid**. This course will be taught over two days and is an introduction to wilderness medicine and basic life support skills. The Wilderness First Aid course is designed to help students better prepare for the unexpected, such as when people get hurt, sick, or lost out in nature. Students will learn the Patient Assessment System and how to provide effective first aid treatments. Topics include body systems (circulatory, nervous, respiratory, etc.), fractures, stable injuries, splints, hypo/hyperthermia, near drowning, lightning injuries, wounds and burns, allergic reactions, etc.

Further, we added eight new seminars. Earlier this year, we offered **Bald Eagle Viewing & Photography**, **Plants of the Redwood Understory**, and **Drawing from Nature**. Coming up, we have **Tri Yoga Under the Redwoods**; **The Life and Legacy of the Burbanks, Armstrongs & Jones**; **Emerging Climate Research**; **Birding for Beginners**; and **Mushrooms of the Redwood Forest**. For a second year in a row, we have invited Jason Grant to present **From Forest Exploitation toward Stewardship: The Remarkable Story of the Evolution of California's Redwood Industry**. This seminar will be an informative for anyone curious about ways to support good forestry practices.

Full descriptions of our Certifications & Workshops, Volunteer Orientations and Trainings, Community Education Seminars, EcoAdventures, and Youth & Family Events can be found in our *Community Education & Volunteer Trainings* brochure. **To download an electronic copy and/or to register for an upcoming event, please visit www.stewardscr.org.**

Seal Watch Spring 2017

Mary Follis, Seal Watch Program Coordinator

Every year is different and this year the mouth of the river is way north, past Haystack Rock. The seals are also way north, with only a few hauling out with pups near the jetty. Most of the seals have not been visible for the visitors, we have been setting up the scope and handing out binoculars to see the ones in the water. We have been successful in asking visitors to not go past the signs at the jetty. March and April were rainy/windy months as some of you experienced surprise showers and wind. Now that it is June, the weather should be more predictable.

In April, the Marine Mammal Center volunteers rescued a Harbor Seal pup at Goat Rock weighing 7.5 lbs (see Figure 1 below).

In further news, Beach Watch surveyors from National Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association found a dead Harbor Seal pup south of the jetty in May.

When I did my Beach Watch Survey in May, I saw a live Elephant Seal Pup in the middle length of the beach, up high close to the dunes (pictured right). When I called Marine Mammal Center (415-289-SEAL), the volunteer asked me if the seal had a lot of wrinkles, if it opened its eyes, if it moved its head or flippers and most importantly how long was it. These are the types of questions Marine Mammal Center will ask in order to make a decision whether to pick up or not. The volunteer said it would probably go back into the water that evening.

Since January, Marine Mammal Center has rescued 22 California sea lions, 54 elephant seals, 32 harbor seals, and 10 Guadalupe sea lions (most rescues took place south of San Francisco). No Northern sea lions or Steller sea lions were documented.

Thank you for protecting the seals during pupping and molting time. Please feel free to contact our “new volunteer” mentor Brittany Kelly at brittkelly24@yahoo.com. She can answer questions or concerns you may have regarding how we do Seal Watch.



Elephant Seal pup resting on the beach.

04/03/17	Byron	Harbor Seal	Goat Rock Beach South Jetty - Jenner, Sonoma	Pup	Male	7.5	Maternal separation, trauma, malnutrition
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Figure 1: Marine Mammal Center Harbor Seal Pup Report

Whale Watch End of Season

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Program Coordinator

The end of Whale Watch arrived amid fog and wind. “Blowdega” Bay was true to that nickname many weekends, particularly at the Head. We still managed to have outstanding sightings of mothers and calves — April and May being the peak time to see them. On a number of occasions, calves put on a show by breaching several times in a row, much to the delight of visitors and volunteers alike.

The last two weekends in April, we were treated to cow/calf pairs streaming by all day long; extremely close in, giving us great views of them. Also in April, we were treated to a visit by our Whale Mother, Bea Brunn, who started the Whale Watch program over 30 years ago. She was happy to see the program going strong. One Sunday in early May, a Great White Shark, close in and right in front of the Head, gave Whale Watchers quite good looks for a short time, as it feasted on something in the water (not a whale). And on the last weekend, we viewed a Steller Sea Lion as it swam past. It was likely headed for Bodega Rock where a mighty Steller can be singled out on occasion among the many (raucous) California Sea Lions that often haul out there.



Whale Mother Bea Brunn visits with Whale Watch volunteers Colleen Draffin and Lois Benson.

Volunteers Rich and Collen Draffin and I want to thank all of the Whale Watch volunteers who came out this year. They made it a successful season by helping visitors see the whales and by sharing their love and knowledge of the amazing Pacific Gray Whales that migrate past our coast year after year.

And so we close out another eventful season!

[NOTE: Whale Watch is looking for dedicated volunteers to help with coordination. Tasks include picking up supplies, set-up and take-down, and making sure there are volunteers to staff the information table each week. Contact Sarah Angulo at sarah@stewardscr.org if you are willing and interested.]

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

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.stewardscr.org or call (707) 869-9177.

2nd Annual Youth Environmental "Artist" Summit ~ Unificando Conciencia

July 13-16, 2017

Once again, Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods and Raizes Collective are hosting a 4 day/3 night camping summit focused on promoting civic engagement, community building, environmental literacy, outdoor lifestyles, cultural diversity, social justice, and the arts.

For more information, contact Jazzy Dingler at jazzy@stewardscr.org or call 707-869-9177 x1#.



Lasting Memories, New Friendships, & Nature Connection!



Gourmet Walk in the Woods
July 22, 2017 • 12:00 - 4:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods SNR

Enjoy a walk in the woods with appetizers, beer & wine pairings, music, art & silent auction!



Sunset Dinner
Aug 12, 2017 • 5:00 - 8:00 PM
Austin Creek SRA

Benefit for Pond Farm Pottery with studio tour, gourmet dinner & sunset views!



Old Grove Festival
Sept 16, 2017 • 4:30 - 9:00 PM
Armstrong Redwoods SNR

Open-air concert with Americana headliner Dead Winter Carpenters & Bluegrass opener One Grass Two Grass!

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods presents:

Junior Ranger Program



**Mammals of Austin Creek:
Who's Eating Whom?**
June 10, July 15

When:
Saturdays
10:00 am - 11:30 am

**Invertebrates:
Life Without a Backbone**
June 17, July 22

Where:
Bullfrog Pond Campground
Austin Creek State Recreation Area

**Life Cycles, Cycles, Cycles:
Air, Water, Rock**
June 24, July 29

Price:
FREE

Plants, Wildflowers & Pollinators
July 1, August 5

A fun opportunity for the whole family! Make it a weekend getaway by reserving your campsite on www.hipcamp.com today!

Adaptions & Connections
July 8, August 12

All are welcome. Parking fees apply.
For more info, call 707-869-9177 or email stewards@stewardscr.org.

Topics may be subject to change!

In Appreciation of Our Donors, Sponsors & Funders

Over \$40,000

The San Francisco Foundation
The Coastal Conservancy - Explore the Coast

\$20,000 to \$25,000

The Dean Witter Foundation
The Campbell Foundation
Sonoma Wine Country Weekend

\$10,000 to \$15,000

Community Foundation Sonoma County
Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
California State Parks Foundation
County of Sonoma
Marcy & Jim Beck
Russ Whitman

\$5,000 to \$9,999

California Coastal Commission
California State Parks Foundation
Bodega Seafood Art & Wine Festival
Russian River Recreation & Park District
Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices
Redwood Credit Union
Save the Redwoods League
Sonoma County Fish and Wildlife Commission

\$2,000 to \$4,999

First 5 Sonoma County
Leslie Risbrough
Clif Bar Family Foundation
Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
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\$1,000 to \$1,999

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Patty Schoch
Mary & Christopher Szcsey
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JoAnn Wilson
Rick Royer
Jennifer Bice
Ellen Matics



NEW MEMBERS

Osprey Circle

Ellen Matics
Rick Royer

Gray Whale Patron

Patrick Laherty

Bobcat Business

Susan Topf

Harbor Seal

Brian Arnold & Ronilee Clark
Ann Cleaveland
Mary Gaffney
Nancy Giambastiani
Elizabeth Hoskins
Dick Ogg
Susan Vachon
Stephen Wells

Otter Family

Terry Adams
Stephen Cinocco
Kelly Clarke
Aimme Claton
Katie Girard
John Herrick
Anne Lowings
Suzanna Mayo
Steve McClary
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Kirk Read, Dave Hall & Ed Wolf

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Regina Costa
Curt Cournale
Susie Hahn
Priscilla LeMieux
Georgia & John Leyden

Jennifer Lorenzen
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Paula Mullen
Christine Paschal
Beatrix Treiterer

Owl Senior & Student

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Penelope Bolger
Charlotte Chavez
Jack & Marsha Dupre
Bill Fisher
Robert Gagliardo
L. Marvel Gardner
Curt Hayden
Ruth Hooper
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Jude Mariah
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Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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Your Stewards Membership
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.