

# Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River District State Parks

Volume XXVI, Number 3, Fall 2011



## Keeping Austin Creek SRA Open

Michele Luna, Executive Director

**A**s Stewards looks at the feasibility of keeping Austin Creek State Recreation Area open, we are realizing the challenges we face, but are not shying away from them. We are calling upon our supporters to help us raise the funds needed.

How we accomplish our goals depends on a number of variables, many unknown at this time. We are watching for the outcome of AB 42, a bill authored by Assembly Member Jared Huffman, which will make it possible for nonprofit organizations to enter into operating agreements with State Parks without having to go through a legislative process.

The bill sponsored by the **California State Parks Foundation** has only one more hurdle before becoming law, hopefully as of January 1, 2012. The amendments made since the bill was first approved by the Assembly were approved today (9/6/11). Next it will go to the Governor for

his signature. The Stewards Board is looking at the feasibility of an operating agreement as perhaps the best option for partnering with State Parks and others to keep Austin Creek SRA open.

### Partnerships

Stewards is working with many partners to achieve our goals. The **Parks Alliance for Sonoma County** ([www.parksalliance.com](http://www.parksalliance.com)) is comprised of many agencies and nonprofits in Sonoma County which are working together to keep open all the Sonoma County parks on the closure list. The consortium is also aware of the many service reductions that we are facing. (See page 2 for Sonoma Coast service reductions.) In addition, Stewards is working with our long-time partner, the **California State Parks Foundation** ([www.calparks.org](http://www.calparks.org)) to continue our

advocacy efforts, as well as bringing their **Park Champions Program** to Austin Creek. This program will assist us in increasing our efforts to steward the land. We are also building a **Park Partnership Program** with local businesses which are supporting our efforts to keep our parks open. The program was launched in Duncans Mills with three shops giving a percentage of their proceeds on Tuesdays

to Stewards. Special thanks to **Mr. Trombly's Tea, Weavers and Dreamers and Worldly Goods**. We will be expanding the program to Guerneville and Bodega Bay. Special thanks to **River Reader Books** for sponsoring a fundraising event for us.

Many dedicated volunteers are stepping up to help us expand our volunteer patrol program in Austin Creek. Mark Anderson and Nicole Cook are willing to coordinate with others who want to join the Foot Patrol. Equestrians Louise Patterson and Michael Murphy are helping re-ignite our Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) and Fred Luna is willing to coordinate with other cyclists who would like to patrol the service roads on a regular basis. Contact [stewards@mcn.org](mailto:stewards@mcn.org) for more info.

Our efforts to fundraise have been helped by **Alden Olmstead** ([johnolmstead.net](http://johnolmstead.net)), who has launched a \$1 for State Parks program all over California and also by Christopher Ward from **Folk4Parks.org** who interviewed us for his video segments. Your donations are greatly appreciated. You can donate via our website or by mailing a check to our PO Box.



### Mission Statement

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) works in partnership with California State Parks to protect and interpret the natural and cultural resources of the Russian River District.

### State Parks Supported

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@mcn.org](mailto:stewards@mcn.org)

[www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org)

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Old Grove Festival	9/17
Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck	10/22
Whale Watch Training	11/12
Volunteer Celebration	12/2

(2011 volunteers will receive an invite.)

## Board Members

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Andrea Mapes

## Photography

Fred Luna  
Laura Parent  
Marine Mammal Center

## E-News

To receive our E-Newsletter please go to our website and sign up for these periodic updates. You can customize your subscription.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Michele Luna, Stewards Executive Director

## PARK CLOSURES AND SERVICE REDUCTIONS START SEPTEMBER 6TH

Working to keep our parks open has been a long-term endeavor that we hoped would not get to this point. Service reductions have meant, for instance, that after Memorial Day, many park visitors were shocked to find that they could not make a reservation to camp at their favorite coastal locations until after July 4th. Stewards is actively working to keep our parks open and I want to be clear that our goal is to continue to work in partnership with State Park staff, not displace them. For example, we are keeping the Visitor Center and restrooms in Jenner open by putting money into a contingent fund to pay for park staff time to clean the restrooms. Thanks to the local community and park visitors, we have raised over \$8,000 to fund this effort. We hope to structure our future plans for Austin Creek in the same way if possible. Following are the service reductions that have plagued the Sonoma Coast.

### The following have been closed indefinitely (south to north):

*Bodega Head East Day-Use (DU), Campbell Cove DU, Russian Gulch DU, Vista Point DU, Pomo Canyon Campground, Reef Campground, Fisk Mill DU, Stump Beach DU, Gerstle Cove DU Restroom closed, and Kruse Rhododendron DU restrooms*

### The following are closed from September 6th through June 2012 (south to north):

*Jenner Visitor Center for the Boat Launch renovation project until October 15th, Willow Creek Environmental Campground, Reef DU, Fort Ross open only on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays*

### The following closed on September 6th until we can find a way to reopen them:

*Austin Creek SRA Campground, Austin Creek SRA Tom King and Mannings Flat backcountry sites, Austin Creek SRA above the County Road, Austin Creek SRA hiking trails **WILL** be open for the time being.*

### The following will close in October 2011 through June 2012:

*All but 19 sites at Bodega Dunes Campground, So. Salmon DU, Schoolhouse DU, Blind Beach DU*

## Restoring Fish Passage in Willow Creek - Steelhead and Coho saved!



Stewards is proud to report that our Willow Creek 2nd Bridge Fish Passage Construction Project has begun! Due to the amount of rain we received this year, the creek needed to be dewatered in the construction area. The dewatering process began on July 27th and turned out to be quite exciting for all the participants. The project is being managed by our construction contractor Prunuske Chatham Inc. (PCI). Volunteers and Staff from Stewards, State Parks, PCI, NOAA Restoration Center, Point Reyes Bird Observatory and the Sonoma County Water Agency worked together to rescue fish for two days. The team used backpack electrofishers and large and small seines to

capture the fish. They were transported upstream into suitable habitat. The team worked on 400 feet of the creek. The exciting news is that 60 anadromous fish were captured including 40 steelhead and 20 coho!! Other fish relocated included 115 prickly sculpin, 691 threespine stickleback, 1 giant tiger salamander larva and 1 red-legged frog tadpole.

The project will continue into October and includes the installation of a 43' pre-fab bridge that will provide fish passage in the area of 2nd bridge on Willow Creek Road. Current funders include the Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Restoration Center Open Rivers Initiative, a grant provided by Trout Unlimited through the Sonoma County Water Agency and the National Fish and Wildlife Federation OSPR Fund. Willow Creek Road past the Willow Creek Environmental Campground is closed to all but authorized vehicles during construction. A site visit and media event are planned for late September. Let me know if you want to be notified of the date. Email [mluna@mcn.org](mailto:mluna@mcn.org).

# CAL REPORT

Andrea Mapes, Supervising Ranger, CAL

## AUSTIN CREEK EXCITEMENT - Fish and Fire

On a warm day in early summer, Park Maintenance Worker Tyler Langwell and I decided to venture into the backcountry of Austin Creek State Recreation Area (SRA) to do some trail work and check on the campsite conditions. We are often bogged down with “front country” operations, so it is always a treat to be in this seldom-traveled part of the over 5,600 acres that comprise Austin Creek SRA. On this day, we were a bit surprised to encounter a convoy of Fish & Game vehicles stopped on the East Austin Creek Fire Road. We stopped to say “hello” and see what it was they were up to. The biologists allowed me to climb into the bed of one of the trucks and peak into the holding tank at hundreds of 2-inch juvenile coho salmon raised from broodstock at Don Clausen Warm Springs Hatchery. I commented at what seemed to be the large number of fish they planned to release. They remarked that it wasn’t their first time out, and they had done many “plantings” of fish in similar numbers. Wow, I thought to myself, that must mean a lot of them don’t make it. The Fish & Game biologists then went about suiting up in their waders and specially aerated “fish backpacks” in preparation to trek through Gilliam and Thompson Creeks to plant the stock. At the time, I couldn’t help but wonder if all that trouble they were going to would pay off.

Fast forward to late summer, and I was to get my answer in the form of a passing comment from our Environmental Scientist, Brendan O’Neil. On his way home from work one evening, he mentioned to me excitedly that it had been confirmed that native coho were now in the Austin Creek watershed. Before I could ask how they knew that, O’Neil explained that the hatchery raised, planted fish have their adipose fins clipped to distinguish them from non-hatchery fish. The biologists had found coho within our backcountry streams with their adipose fins intact. Imagine having to wait one to three years to see the fruits of your labor!

The streams located within Austin Creek SRA have both advantages and disadvantages for coho survival. The summer surface water temperatures remain cool in our backcountry streams, which tend to benefit these fish. To the coho’s detriment, our backcountry streams at Austin Creek SRA have been historically plagued with road sedimentation and a lack of overhanging logs, undercut banks and woody debris. State Parks continues to work on various projects to reduce road sediment run-off and is developing plans to insert woody debris into the creeks.

Coupled with the bridge project at Willow Creek which Stewards is facilitating, we hope this news is the beginning of a comeback of self-sustaining salmon runs in the Russian River Watershed. That is the goal of the Russian River Coho Salmon Capture Broodstock Program, the multi-agency partnership which was involved in the reintroduction of coho to Austin Creek SRA. To learn more about this effort, visit <http://ucanr.org/sites/RussianRiverCoho/>.

The fire that started on Tuesday afternoon, August 23, 2011 was dubbed the “Old Fire,” as Pole Mountain Lookout initially reported that it arose between Old Cazadero Road and Bullfrog Pond. Although it actually was located on neighboring property, Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area still felt its effects. Swarms of fire engines, hand crew buses and bulldozers used the park to access the fire on the ground, and planes and helicopters buzzed overhead in the air attack. State Park staff were on hand to direct incoming resources on the best ways to access the fire area and neighboring residents helped with opening gates and notifications. As a precaution, Bullfrog Pond Campground was evacuated and all camping and day use in both parks was closed until we received an update on the fire. Although the weather conditions were mostly favorable for fighting fire, the worse-case scenario was not hard to envision given the steep terrain and heavy fuel load in the area. By nightfall on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, it appeared as though firefighters were gaining control of the blaze.



CalFIRE and several local fire jurisdictions effectively controlled the fire to a mere 30 acres of vegetation, mostly comprised of grass. One resident remarked that the air resources doused the flames approaching his home just in the nick of time. Despite its proximity to several residences, no structures were reported lost to the fire. The cause is officially still under investigation according to CalFIRE representatives, despite preliminary reports stating it was caused by gunfire.

This fire serves as a reminder of our susceptibility to this type of disaster, and that there is a potential cost to living next to beautiful forests and open spaces. Fire is not only a plague, however. Although it threatens homes, it yields many environmental benefits. Even for those of us who may be in its path, it always teaches important lessons. It taught me to be prepared with my own “emergency kit,” so I can grab-and-go. It also helped me realize what personal belongings I value most and that there are many things I can live without, not that I want to.

# PROGRAM UPDATES

Ruby Herrick, Programs Manager

## Seal Watch (SW)

SW has had a season full of marine mammal & bird sighting, new equipment and interest from school groups. In June, a Gray Whale mom & calf were seen close to shore at Goat Rock for more than an hour. There have been many whale sightings this year and last, delighting volunteers and visitors.

During the summer, active SW volunteers were invited to The Marine Mammal Center's Community Release Celebrations along the coast. At one of these releases in Bodega Bay on July 9, 5 rehabilitated Harbor Seals were released into the surf. We hope they will share a bright future with the Seal Watch program.



With the continued guidance and leadership of Program Coordinator, Bob Caricato, we look forward to starting the 2012 season with updated equipment and excited volunteers.

## Jenner Visitor Center (JVC)

The State Parks Visitor Center in Jenner is an important component of our coastal programs. The JVC is a "way station and information center" for many visitors. Thanks to Linda Fisher, Program Coordinator and the volunteers for their patience as the Jenner Boat Launch project begins on 9/6, closing the JVC until October 15th. We look forward to reopening at that time with a new ADA boat launch, reconfigured parking and a new ramada for picnickers.

## Tidepool Program (TP)

The TP program had an interesting 2011 season, with extreme winds, schools missing negative tides completely and other schools finding huge Octopi and Abalone. Through all of this, TP Education volunteers, led by Hollis Bewley, Program Coordinator, showed up, volunteered and worked with all school groups. The TP program will get new radios and we have a new storage box on the front deck at the JVC. Thanks to our State Park Salmon Creek Maintenance staff for this tidy box. We have continued the TP classroom visits and need more volunteers who are interested in this important component of the program.

**The Tidepool Roving Program** led by Program Coordinators Keary and Sally Sorenson, continues during negative tides weekends. Keary and Sally have been as reliable as the tide itself, when it comes to interpreting on the beach. They are great sources of information so if you can only tidepool on the weekends, this is the program for you. Please contact us.

## Armstrong Tour Guides (ATG)

Armstrong Redwoods continues to be a popular and affordable location for school groups, with or without docent-led tours. School groups have been growing larger and it is a challenge to serve them. To enhance the Armstrong Tour Guide Program and serve these large groups, Stewards will be offering interpretive stations at Armstrong next year. This new program enhancement is made possible by a grant from **Save the Redwoods League**. We are modeling the new interpretive stations on the successful Watershed Education program. Students will break up into groups and follow the docents to a pre-selected station along the trail where they will engage students in interpretive activities or games. Students will rotate to the next interpretive station until they have completed them all. We will be working with new and returning volunteers in developing these learning stations and the logistics in the months ahead and plan to be ready to go by Spring 2012. Let us know if you would like to join the planning team.

## Armstrong Visitor Center (ARVC)

Under the leadership of Program Coordinator Joyce Bacci, the Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center is active all year round with volunteers "minding the shop" during the summer, winter and holidays. The VC volunteers are often the first people visitors interact with when they visit the park. A big thank you to our ARVC volunteers who are raising much needed funds to support our programs.

## Armstrong Roving Docents

The Armstrong Roving program continues with new and returning volunteers out on the trails meeting and greeting visitors. We have reports of one volunteer making 200 contacts in one afternoon! Thank you Roving Naturalists.

## Watershed Education Program

Pomo Campground is the destination for schools who participate in the Watershed Education program. Students rotate through interpretive learning stations in and around Pomo Creek, seeking the answers to environmental problems and watershed health. The Expeditionary Learning Program will once again participate in the Watershed Education program in November. The program will then temporarily move to Armstrong Redwoods until Pomo Campground re-opens next year.



# CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS AND STEWARDS OF THE COAST AND REDWOODS



## DOCENT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION PROGRAM 2012

(Dates and Times are subject to change – please refer to our website for updates and to register – [www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org))

**Whale Watch Orientation** - November 12, 2011, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm, Bodega Bay Grange

### General Volunteer in Parks & Stewards Orientations – No charge

January 14, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

March 17, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

May 19, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

### Program Specific Orientations – No charge

Whale Watch Logistics

Armstrong Tour Guide Logistics

Seal Watch Logistics

Tidepool Program Logistics

Jenner Visitor Center Logistics

Armstrong Visitor Center Logistics

Seal Watch Logistics #2

Environmental Living Program Logistics

Watershed Program Logistics

November 12, 2011, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

January 20, 2012, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

February 11, 2012, 12:30 to 3:30 pm

February 18, 2012, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

March 24, 2012, 10:00 am to Noon

April 28, 2012, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

June 2, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

TBD

TBD

### Docent and Community Education Seminars (Instruction and Exploration)

\$15 for non-members of Stewards, \$5 for members of Stewards (payment due at the time of registration)

Cultural History of Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek

Principles of Interpretation

Interpretation with Children

Redwood Ecology

Pinnipeds and Coastal Birds

Intertidal Exploration

Birding on Sonoma Coast

Geology of Sonoma Coast

Armstrong Redwoods Plants & Wildflowers

Coastal Plants and Wildflowers

Wildlife of Western Sonoma County

Archeology of Sonoma Coast

Pond Farm & Legacy of Marguerite Wildenhain

Kayaking in the Jenner Estuary

Cultural History of Sonoma Coast & Willow Creek

January 14, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

January 21, 2012 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

January 21, 2012, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

January 28, 2012, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

February 11, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

February 18, 2012, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

February 25, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

March 10, 2012, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

April 7, 2012, 12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

April 21, 2012, 9:00 am to Noon

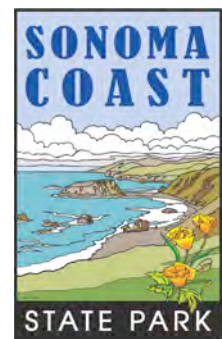
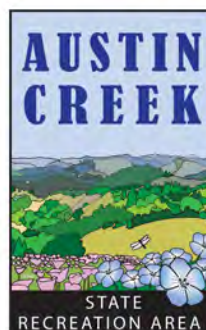
April 28, 2012, 9:00 am to 12:30 pm

May 5, 2012, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

May 26, 2012, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm

TBD

TBD



# BIOLUMINESCENT PLANKTON & RED TIDE

## *Beauty and the Beast*

In the past few weeks visits to Sonoma Coast and the Russian River Estuary have provided both excitement and death. Suki Waters, docent and owner of WaterTreks reports the following:

*The annual Glowing (bioluminescent) Plankton is in the Jenner Estuary and is possibly stronger than it has ever been. The Glowing Plankton is currently so intense that members of our group who have seen glowing plankton several times before, said they have never had an experience quite like what we have here. The plankton's eerie blue green sparkles erupt in balls of light that remain for 20 to 30 feet after each stroke of our paddles in the water. Each participant is part of the show as light erupts from every wake and movement of our kayaks. We pause to dip our hands in the water and view the sparkling stars twinkling like the Milky Way dripping between our fingers or flying through the air with each flick of our wrist.*



*Fish startled by the movement of our kayaks in the shallows create shooting streaks of light that result in eruptions of squeals and laughter from paddlers caught unexpectedly by their presence. Farther into the estuary we gather around quietly not paddling at all to simply enjoy floating in a dancing sea of glowing shrimp seemingly more numerous than the stars glowing in the sky.*

After hearing from docent Keary Sorenson that he had seen 23 Gumboot Chitons and 39 Sea Stars dead in a 40 square foot area at Shell Beach, we received the following reports from agency personnel about the current "red tide" conditions.

*Brendan O'Neil, State Park Environmental Scientist talked to Gregg Langlois of the Dept. of Public Health who is responsible for biotoxin monitoring within the State of California. He said that this red tide is unusual in that it is the first he has seen that is a result of Gonyaulax spinifera. There is also some concern that there is an issue with anoxic conditions associated with the large quantity of kelp present this year (and its' subsequent die off). This may also be impacting some of the marine inverts that are dying. In addition to the marine inverts at Shell Beach we are seeing significant mortality from Bodega Head to at least Salt Point including abalone and other shell fish.*

*Karl Menard, the Aquatic Resources Manager for the Bodega Marine Lab reported, "different agencies are currently investigating and have confirmed significant die offs of near shore invertebrates in Sonoma County which have occurred simultaneously with a red tide like algae bloom and warm water occurrences. We are pursuing explanations of how these die-offs could be triggered by natural toxins or other environmental conditions caused by the algae bloom. We have learned that certain species may be more vulnerable than others."*

The California Department of Public Health Report on August 31st:

*During the past several weeks, areas along the Sonoma coast in Northern California have been experiencing a major red tide. The California Department of Public Health has collected samples of shellfish from the affected area and is analyzing them to determine if toxins are present that may affect human health. There have not been reported human illnesses associated with consumption of seafood within the areas affected by the bloom. However, the Department advises recreational consumers to be cautious and not consume seafood that may have been affected by the bloom. The public is reminded that the annual mussel quarantine is in effect until October 31 for the entire California coastline.*

From a Department of Fish and Game report on September 1st:

*The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has confirmed reports of dead red abalone and sea stars inside coves along the coast in Sonoma County. The number of dead and dying abalone is not known but reports have come from Bodega Bay, Russian Gulch, Fort Ross, Timber Cove and Salt Point State Park, beginning on August 27. DFG biologists and game wardens have collected abalone, mussels and water samples and are continuing to document reports from the public. According to DFG biologists, these abalone deaths coincided with a local red tide bloom (or phytoplankton bloom) and calm ocean conditions. Although the exact reasons for the abalone deaths are not known, invertebrate die-offs have occurred in the past along the northern California coast when similar weather and bloom conditions existed.*

## Volunteer Opportunities

Call the Stewards office:  
869-9177 x1# or email  
rherrick@mcn.org

### Program Activities Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing  
Friends of Armstrong  
Redwoods  
Docent Tour Guides  
Trail Maintenance  
Habitat Restoration Project  
Pond Farm Interest Group

### Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Staffing  
Seal Watch  
Whale Watch  
Tidepool Programs  
Watershed Program  
Environmental Living Prog.  
Sonoma Coast Stewardship

### Other Projects

Recycling & Firewood  
Office Help & Special  
Events

### Volunteer Program Coordinators

Joyce Bacci, ARVC  
Lanny Keyston, AR Trails, FAR  
Laura Parent, Pond Farm  
Linda Fisher, Jenner VC  
Bob Caricato, Seal Watch  
Bea Brunn, Whale Watch  
Suzanne Abrams, ELP  
Fred Luna, Recycling  
Vacant, Willow Creek Ed.  
Bill Bambrick, Sonoma Coast  
Water Quality Monitoring  
and Trail Crew  
The Sorensons, Marine  
Debris & Beach Cleanups  
Hollis & Jerry Bewley,  
Tidepool Programs

### State Park Volunteer Coordinators

Ranger Ellen Brem  
Armstrong/Austin Creek  
Ranger Ben Vanden Heuvel  
Sonoma Coast State Park

## FALL ECO-ADVENTURES & SPECIAL EVENTS

**Registration is required for all EcoAdventures.** Register on our website [www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/ecoadventure\\_registrationpage.htm](http://www.stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org/ecoadventure_registrationpage.htm) or email [stewards@mcn.org](mailto:stewards@mcn.org) or call (707) 869-9177

### Jenner Headlands Coastal Hikes

October 8, 2011, 10:00 am to 3:30 pm - FREE EVENT, registration required

Bring a lunch including water, strenuous hike, must be in good physical condition.

The hike will take place along the coastal headlands of the property. This strenuous 4.0-mile roundtrip hike will ascend more than 800 feet in elevation. Along the way, hikers will be greeted with dazzling views of the Sonoma Coast (on clear days). Some sections of the route are especially rough with uneven footing so please wear sturdy hiking boots. This hike is not for inexperienced hikers — you must be in good physical condition. Along with the rough terrain comes the varying coastal weather that can bring bright, sunny skies or damp, cold, foggy and windy weather. We highly recommend dressing in layers and including a windbreaker jacket to protect you from the potentially biting coastal winds.

### Russian River Estuary Birding Seminar with Peter Leveque

September 10, 2011, 9:00 am to Noon - \$5 Members, \$15 Non-members, Registration required

Another opportunity to join Peter Leveque for a viewing of the birds found around the Russian River estuary. Peter is a wonderful interpreter and a local expert on birdlife in Sonoma County.

California State Parks Presents  
the Sixth Annual  
**Old Grove Festival**  
A Benefit for  
Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods  
Redwood Forest Theatre,  
Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve

**Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011**

"Groove in the Grove"  
**The Best Intentions**  
**Motown Mania**

Gates open: 4:00 pm  
Great Feast: 4:00 - 8:00 pm  
Sticky Notes: 4:00 pm



The Mighty Chiplings: 6:00 pm  
Main Act: 7:00 pm



Tickets available online  
General - \$25, Child \$10, Redwood Circle \$40  
Great Feast (BBQ Chicken or Veggie) - \$10 per person

[www.oldgrovefestival.org](http://www.oldgrovefestival.org)  
**(707) 869-9177**

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND POTLUCK

October 22, 2011, Armstrong Redwoods Group Picnic Area

10:00 am - Guided Walk - meet in the picnic area.

Noon - Potluck Picnic and Stewards' Annual Membership Meeting with State Park Updates

Stewards will provide beverages; bring a dish to share and plates and utensils

### WHALE WATCH

*Bea Brunn, Whale Mother*

Normally this is the quiet time for Whale Watch, however once again our Gray Whales are hanging out in front of Bodega Head instead of swimming back to Alaska. This is what happened last year and we believe they are mostly juveniles that decided to stay around here because their food supply up north in Alaska is dwindling and they are opportunistic feeders and found some other source of food down here. If this keeps up we most likely are going to have a resident population of the whales down here—just like they are having in Oregon.

The whales have been putting on a show to the delight of the many visitors to Bodega Head, so please come out and look for our beautiful whales close to shore.

**Our annual Whale Watch orientation will be on November 12 at Bodega Bay Grange from 9:00 to 1:30.** I will send out a flyer to all our faithful volunteers so please mark the date on your calendars and come to see us ready to sign up for your dates in 2012. We hope to see all our "old-timers" as well as many newcomers. We guarantee you a great experience from January to end of May, both seeing whales and meeting all our great volunteers, and of course all the interested park visitors.



# In Appreciation of our Donors

## Foundations/Agencies

Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival  
California State Parks Foundation  
The Medtronic Foundation  
The National Environmental Education Fnd  
Save the Redwoods League  
The Sebastopol Rotary

## Businesses/Corporations

North Bay Corporation  
Paydirt Pictures  
River Reader Bookstore  
Sophies Cellars  
Webhelper

## Event Sponsors 2011

### Sea Star - \$2,000 plus

Affinity Solar Energy  
Russian River Getaway  
The Hot Tub Place

### Wildflower Sponsors - \$500 plus

Fern Grove Cottages  
Russian River Recreation & Parks District  
Westamerica Bank

### Mushroom Sponsors - \$100 plus

Cambria Bicycle Outfitters  
Jenner Vacation Rentals  
John De Salvio (Graphic Design)

### In-Kind Sponsors

Bohemian  
Coffee Bazaar  
Guerneville Graphics  
Food for Humans  
The Krush  
Sonoma County Gazette  
Sonoma West Times & News  
Whole Foods

## Wine/Beer Donations

Arbios  
Balletto Vineyards & Winery  
Barefoot Cellars

Graton Ridge Cellars  
Hook and Ladder  
DeLoach Winery  
Freeman Vineyards  
Gallo Family Vineyards  
Hobo Wine Co.  
Kenwood Vineyards  
Korbel Champagne Cellars  
Lagunitas Brewing Co.  
Lake Sonoma Winery  
Martin Ray Winery  
Russian River Brewing Co.  
Third Street Aleworks  
Wildhog Winery  
Old World Winery

## Auction Donors

BBQ Smokehouse Bistro  
Beau Wine Tours  
BR Cohn Winery  
Christopher Bryant  
Lenore Carrion  
Cher Church  
Connie Cloak  
Rob Dickerson  
Jan de Wald  
Jenny Donovan  
Kate Fenton  
Tina Freimuth  
Freeman Winery  
Fritz Underground Winery  
Jane Gardner  
Gundlach Bundschu Winery  
Harvest Moon Winery  
Carolyn Horan  
Michelle Irwin  
JackiGail Jackson  
Rich Lawton  
Rebecca Love  
Harvey Mendelson  
Susan Moore  
Carol Norick  
Kevin O'Connor

Deborah Padrick  
Jim Pollare  
Robert Hunter Winery  
Style and Comfort Limo  
VJB Vineyards & Cellars

## Osprey Circle Donors 2010 to 2011

### \$5,000

Family of Owen and Virginia  
Keech Bird

### \$1,000 plus

Dennis McAuliffe  
James Barnes  
Carmen Finley  
Michael Von der Porten

### \$500 plus

Doris Dickenson  
Lawrence E. Jones School  
Expeditionary Learning  
Gregory Fearon  
Barbara Gegan  
Diane Gifford  
Terry Grant  
Gary Heck Foundation  
Tina Kelly  
Michael & Margaret Kennett  
The Neil and Amelia McDaniel  
Charitable Trust  
Laura Morgan  
Rita O'Neill  
Janet Randall  
Betty Reiss  
Gilbert Roberts/Penelope  
Cohen  
Julie and Kurt Whitaker

## Musicians

Sticky Notes, Edge of Town, The  
Mighty Chiplings, Misty North,  
Happenstance, Jim & Kathy Ocean

## NEW MEMBERS

### Patron

Gary Heck Foundation

### Contributing and Business Members

Christine Canelis  
Ed & Sue Maness

### Family Members

Nicole Cook  
Shawna Gannon  
Scott Hills  
Jungle Jenny  
Mark Randal  
Lindsey S. Sloan

### Individual Members

Anne Higgins  
Clode Leduc  
Linda Marietta

### Senior/Students

Lenore Carrion  
Nancy MacDonald  
Ronie Reiley  
Wendy Wiley  
Robert Youngs

## Program Reports

*Continued from page 4*

### Environmental Living Program (ELP)

The one-day Environmental Learning Program has proved to be popular with local schools and this trend continues. ELP volunteers will lead Thomas Page Middle School students in the one-day program in September and October. Suzanne Abrams, Program Coordinator, will take an informative PowerPoint presentation she has created to the school to introduce the day's activities. The site visit begins at Shell Beach, where students, parents, teachers and volunteers will go through interpretive learning stations while taking in the beauty of the coast from the beach to Red Hill.

### Program Assessment Meetings

During the summer months each year, state park staff, Stewards' staff and volunteers meet to discuss program goals and challenges. Each meeting results in a list of program improvements that we plan to implement in the upcoming year. We are very grateful to everyone who participated in this process. It is invaluable and results in the high quality programs for which Stewards is known.

Stewards members receive this quarterly newsletter by email or mail .

Members are also entitled to 20% discount on purchases at Stewards-run visitor centers and at our special events. In addition, Members can attend our educational seminars for a \$5 donation.

## 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
- Supporting  \$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.

For Information on contributing to Stewards' Endowment in support of Armstrong Redwoods please contact Michele Luna at the Stewards office (707) 869-9177 X4#.

CALL 800-320-0476 TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION IN THE NAME OF  
STEWARDS OF THE COAST AND REDWOODS

## Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430

(707) 869.9177, FAX (707) 869.8252

[stewards@mcn.org](mailto:stewards@mcn.org), [stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org](http://stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org)



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