

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Restoration in
Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XX, Number 1, Spring 2005



Enjoy Spring in our Parks

Stewards is pleased to present the following educational or stewardship activities as ways to get out and enjoy our parks this Spring. Please call our office at (707) 869-9177 or email stewards@mcn.org to make reservations, that way we will know how many people to expect, and can contact you if there are any changes to the event you've signed up for.

WILDFLOWER HIKE with Docents Norman Hill and Joyce Bacci

Saturday, March 26, 2005, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

View wildflowers and check the sprayed area near the Picnic Area and on the lower Pool Ridge Trail. Meet at the entrance parking lot at Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve for carpooling to the East Parking Lot (near the Stewards' Building). Moderately difficult with a long, steep stretch partway into the hike. Bring lunch and water.

TIDESTROM'S LUPINE & DUNE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT with Skaidra Smith-Hesiters

Saturday, March 26, 2005, 11 a.m.

Meet by the restrooms in the Goat Rock parking lot for an opportunity to learn about and help preserve this endangered native plant.

NATURE AT NIGHT: ARMSTRONG REDWOODS with naturalist Cathleen Cannon

Saturday, April 9, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

A silent, slow, night stroll thru Armstrong Woods aided only by illumination of low-intensity hand-held blacklights (on loan). Experience the sounds, sights, smells under the giant redwoods. To discover activities of night critters as they forage for food, for mates, or just explore. For adults aged 18-85 years, (blacklight fee waived for those over 85 years) COST: \$10.00 per person for blacklight rental. Hike is LIMITED TO 10 people!! Register early.

EARTH DAY RESTORATION AND CLEANUP AT ARMSTRONG AND SONOMA COAST

Saturday, April 23, 2005, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Meet at the Visitor Center in Jenner, across from the gas station.)

Armstrong Redwoods - Trail maintenance projects (Meet by the Visitor Center)

Sonoma Coast - North Jenner Beach Cleanup and Marine Debris Education Program & Activities for Children

For both events bring gloves, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water and lunch.

Event funded and cosponsored by the California State Parks Foundation, Pacific Gas and Electric, Oracle, ChevronTexaco, Starbucks, Marin Community Foundation, and Timberland.

WILDFLOWER HIKE TO GILLIAM CREEK, Austin Creek S.R.A. with Docents Norman Hill and Keith Nelson

Saturday, April 30, 2005, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Meet at the entrance parking lot at Armstrong Redwoods S.R. where carpooling will be arranged. The full loop will be moderate to difficult hiking, with several fordings of School House Creek. Bring lunch and extra water.

POND FARM CLEANUP DAY - AUSTIN CREEK SRA

Sunday May 1, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Meet in the East parking lot (near the Stewards' office) at Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve. Bring gloves, good humor, and a potluck dish to share.

WILDFLOWER AND PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE ON WILLOW CREEK RIDGE with Docents Darlene LaMont, Norman Hill, and Keith Nelson

Saturday, May 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hike on a beautiful ridge with views of the Russian River and Willow Creek and walk back along the creek.

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 Sector of the North Bay District.

State Parks Supported

Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve

Austin Creek State Recreation Area

Sonoma Coast State Beach Willow Creek Watershed

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Continued on page 4 with more activities

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Kathie Lowrey, editing

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Michele Luna, Executive Director

As we enjoy the spring wildflowers we are reminded that this time of year brings with it new beginnings, growth, and wonder. In this issue of the newsletter we are offering you many opportunities to get out and enjoy our parks. I am especially pleased with our lineup of great hikes and I want to thank the docents who are giving their time to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with us all. In addition, we are offering opportunities to join others in helping to cleanup and restore our parks through stewardship projects. We hope to see many of you at our Earth Day events on April 23rd or at Pond Farm Cleanup on May 1st.



Willow Creek Watershed Management Plan

I am very pleased to announce the completion of a 5 year-long endeavor to develop a Watershed Management Plan for Willow Creek. This project began in the year 2000 with the writing of a Proposition 13 grant proposal for funding. The project was funded in 2001 and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) began bi-monthly meetings in 2002. The result of the work of the TAC and our dedicated contractor Prunuske Chatham, Inc. has produced an impressive document that will help guide future restoration work in the watershed. The document can be downloaded from our website or a hardcopy can be requested by calling or emailing us. Special thanks to Kathie Lowrey for all the volunteer time she spent on this project.

Grants Received

Stewards is very proud to report the receipt of a number of grants to support our work. The Medtronic Foundation provided \$10,000 in funding to support our Environmental Education programs on Sonoma Coast and the Dean Witter Foundation also provided funding in the amount of \$10,000 in support of our programs both on Sonoma Coast and at Armstrong Redwoods. The California State Parks Foundation is providing \$3,700 in funding to support Earth Day projects at Armstrong and on the Sonoma Coast. We are very excited to be starting the year with this funding in place.

Welcome Diane Barth

I am very happy to announce that we have hired a new part-time Administrative Assistant. Diane Barth has been a member of Stewards for almost twenty years. She comes to us with a dedication to our work as well as great office management skills. She retired from working at the Bodega Marine Lab in 2002 and also has experience working in an administrative capacity with other local businesses and nonprofits.

Congratulations to Joyce Bacci

Joyce Bacci has been volunteering as the Coordinator of the Armstrong Visitor Center since 1997. Her contribution has been invaluable and we are very thrilled to announce that Joyce will be Stewards' honoree at the Sonoma County Volunteer Center's Recognition Luncheon on April 20th at the Vineyard Creek Inn. Thanks Joyce for your dedication!

Wildflower of the Season

Red Larkspur/Canyon Delphinium, *Delphinium nudicaule*

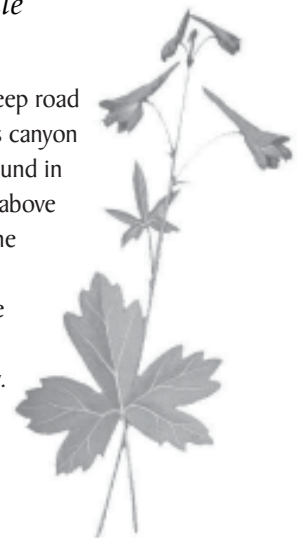
Norman Hill, Docent

Have you ever wondered what those small, orange-red, separate flowers on deep road cuts are? Maybe not: many know that they are red larkspurs, also known as canyon delphiniums because of their tendency to grow on very steep slopes. They are found in Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve on the road to Bullfrog Pond about 0.1 mile above the Picnic Area; also behind and next to the Maintenance Building across from the Stewards' Building.

As with other larkspur and delphinium flowers they have a spur, in their case sticking out straight behind the five sepals. Their leaves have three or five, usually serrated, lobes much like those on other members of the buttercup family. There are few on the flower stalks: nudicaule means "naked stem."

Another name for them is sleep root, because they were used by native Americans as a narcotic to dull the senses of gambling opponents.

I hope that you will be able to enjoy their unique color and other qualities.



CAL REPORT

Dave Horvitz, Cooperating Association Liaison

So far it has been a productive winter for State Parks and Stewards. Many projects have come to fruition, many others initiated. Stewards has been successful in receiving several grants dedicated to our programs. Ideas involving the operational aspects of Willow Creek have been expressed. Many new volunteer opportunities should present themselves as we progress.

Volunteer trainings for Sonoma Coast have begun. Training for Armstrong Redwoods is beginning in March. All volunteers are invited. A training schedule is listed in this newsletter. If you are planning on attending Armstrong trainings please call Stewards' office at 869-9177 and let them know, so we have an idea as to how many people will be present.

Here are a few events to pencil in on your calendar. This year Earth Day will occur on Saturday, April 23. Don't forget to sign up for the activities that interest you. The Russian River Sector volunteer appreciation event is scheduled for Saturday May 21 at Fort Ross. A "mini" Cultural Heritage Day will also occur on this day. This is a wonderful opportunity to take part in the events. More information will follow as the date draws near.

February brought a gathering of Pond Farm aficionados, interested persons, out of state professors, state park personnel and the State Parks Foundation President to Pond Farm. Discussions ranged from the reminiscing of past students, cultural history, local history and archeology. A general assessment of the facility and ideas as to how best preserve and care for them were discussed. Also expressed was the importance of collecting existing artifacts, oral history and interpretation of the site. Pond Farm is a culturally diverse location of significant importance.

Future planning within Austin Creek SRA as a management unit will provide direction and goals for Pond Farm. These are financially adverse times for State Parks with a minimal amount of funding for new projects. The first step is to develop plans so work can begin as funding becomes available.

If you have not visited your favorite park or explored a new one spring is a great time to do so. Wild flowers are just starting and birds are becoming more active. Come on out and go for a hike.

THE RUSSIAN RIVER COHO SALMON RECOVERY PROGRAM

Rob Dickerson, CAT Coordinator and Trout Unlimited

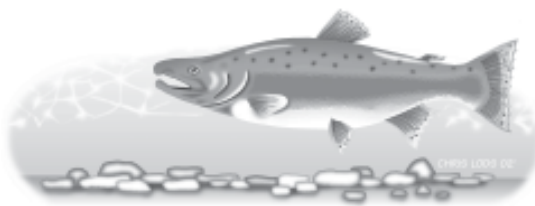
Numerous government agencies, conservation organizations and volunteers like you and me are working together to increase the dwindling number of endangered coho salmon in the Russian River and its tributaries. In August 2001, coho salmon from Green Valley, Mark West and Redwood Creeks were rescued from these streams, and contributed to the establishment of a wild coho brood stock. Juvenile salmon would be returned to Russian River tributaries possessing the best conditions for the coho to survive. The eventual goal of the program is to reestablish sustainable coho populations in the Russian River watershed.

Three years later, in fall 2004, 6000 juvenile coho were released into Mill Creek (Dry Creek watershed), Ward Creek (Austin Creek watershed) and Sheephouse Creek about a mile upstream of Jenner. Students of all ages were involved in this landmark event that capped many years of careful planning, restoration and cooperation between private landowners, government agencies, and the public.

These same parties are now involved in a monitoring project to assess the return of these coho to the ocean and then back to their watersheds over the course of the coho's three year lifespan. Check this link to learn about the recovery effort and to see a video presenting an outstanding on-line presentation about the coho recovery program: www.spn.usace.army.mil/cohosalmon

How can you get involved? Several ways. Stewards' Willow Creek program offers watershed education to middle and high school students and conducts water quality monitoring. Volunteers are treated to working in a soon-to-be 3000 acre addition to Sonoma Coast State Beach, helping prepare Willow Creek for the return of the coho and sharing your knowledge and inspiration with others.

The efforts of Stewards' members, volunteers, financial supporters and the others we partner with have led to projects such as Willow Creek and Coho Recovery that preserve, protect and restore this wonderful world that nurtures and inspires all of us.



WISH LIST

Two drawer file cabinet

GOLF SPONSORS

*Carlenzoli & Associates
Exchange Bank*

DONORS Foundations

American Rivers/NOAA
Fisherman's Festival
Russian River Watershed
Project - Prop. 13
Community Foundation
Sonoma County
California State Parks
Foundation
Dean Witter Foundation
Medtronic Foundation
Nat'l Fish and Wildlife Fnd.
Project Aware
Sonoma County Fish and
Wildlife Commission
Community Foundation
Sonoma County/Russian River
Community Tr.
Save the Redwoods League

Corporations

ChevronTexaco
Mendocino Redwood Co.
Pacific Gas and Electric

Osprey Circle Members

\$500 or more
Peggy and Churchill Colburn
Tom and Marilyn Fujiyoshi
Lanny and Joann Keyston
Claudia Lapin
Laura Morgan
Mountain Shadows Expedi-
tionary Parent's Assn.
Josephine Nattkemper
Betty Riess

SPRING HIKES AND ACTIVITIES

Continued from page 1.

Darlene will give tips on landscape and flower photography and Norman and Keith will identify the plants. Bring binoculars, a hand lens, lunch and water, plastic to sit on, or a garden kneeler; wear layers. Bring your camera, extra batteries and a small tripod if you can. Meet at 10 a.m. at Pomo Campground. (Day use fees are waived for this special event.) Hiking Level: moderate (about 600' gain). Heavy rain cancels.

WILDFLOWER AND PHOTOGRAPHY HIKE ON THE KORTUM TRAIL NEAR GOAT ROCK with Docents Darlene LaMont, Norman Hill, Joyce Bacci, and Keith Nelson.

Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Meet at the Shell Beach parking lot for a 2 loop hike. First to the north to the Mammoth Rocks and Peaked Hill then on the way back we will stop for and early lunch at the picnic tables on the bluffs just north of Shell Beach parking lot. Second we will take the south loop down to Furlong Gulch and back. Darlene La Mont will give tips on landscape and flower photography and Norman and Keith will identify the plants. Bring binoculars, a hand lens, lunch and water, a garden kneeler; wear layers. Bring your camera, extra batteries and a small tripod if you can. Hiking Level: easy and mostly level. Heavy rain cancels.

REDHILL LOOP with Docents Keith Nelson and Joyce Bacci

Saturday, June 18, 2005, 10 a.m.

Meet at Shell Beach parking lot on Highway 1, mile marker 18.22. Hike Pomo Campground trail to top of first hill; turn right to top of Red Hill; then west to Furlong gulch and back on Kortum trail to Shell Beach. Challenging; 500 ft. elevation gains, 4.5 miles. Bring lunch and plenty of water.

REMINDER: Reservations for all our hikes and stewardship activities is required. Please call (707) 869-9177 or email stewards@mcn.org.

WHALE WATCH

Bea Brumm, Whale Mother

This year's whale watch is in full swing, and as usual the weather has had us guessing with beautiful warm days and blustery cold days on the Head, but as always with enthusiastic and eager docents.

We have had sightings of our southward whales whenever the weather and ocean conditions permitted. This year for some reason we have had whales closer to shore than usual. Then, on February 10 we had our first two whales heading north.

Our most exciting week started Monday, February 8 with a "confused youngster" showing up at Campbell Cove in Bodega Bay putting on a show for everybody who was lucky enough to be there. After an article in *The Press Democrat* people were streaming out to Bodega Bay to observe this whale that did not disappoint anyone. This whale (he/she) was inside the harbor in the shipping channel, feeding like crazy every day on the outgoing tide. He obviously found the food in the bottom sediments to his liking. This youngster was observed for three days and then he just as mysteriously disappeared. (Hopefully he met up with some other whales who told him how to behave).

Saturday February 12 was a beautiful, warm day with record visitors—so many in fact that the Rangers had to close off the road going down to the parking lot at Bodega Head. This day we also had many whale sightings, most swimming north close to shore, while others were still swimming south further out. The weekend of February 19-20 we were actually rained out, but we look forward to a continued good 2005 season.

The Revised Management Scheme and the Return of Commercial Whaling

America's Whale Alliance (AWA) was formed in response to the change in United States Government policy in negotiating for the resumption of commercial whaling. As an affiliate of the Global Whale Alliance (GWA), AWA will focus its efforts on reversing this apparent policy change. By uniting US-based conservation and animal welfare organizations we aim to fight any political compromise that will see the resumption of the cruel, outdated and unnecessary commercial slaughter of whales. AWA is actively opposing the resumption of commercial whaling, but we need your help and there is little time left. For more information visit the following websites:

www.americaswhalealliance.org <<http://www.americaswhalealliance.org>>

www.oceandefense.org <<http://www.oceandefense.org>>



TIDEPooling AT ITS BEST

Melissa and Alexandra Carlson, Docents



From moon glow sea anemones at Carmet, giant sun stars and purple sea urchins at Coleman, rock crabs and goose barnacles at North Salmon Creek, bat stars and gray stars at Shell, gumboot chitons along with bright red, yellow and purple sea sponges at Schoolhouse, to the abundant ever impressive sea snail (during -1.9 tide) at Wright's Beach, the 2003 and 2004 Tide Pool Roving Naturalist and Educational Programs season went off with awesome success. This article is a summary we've prepared from the shift journals that docents complete during their volunteer shift. We had over 474 visiting participants from 2003 and over 516 for 2004. Just think about the seeds of learning and curiosity that have been planted in these folks! Great Job All!

Most days the weather was perfect and the minus tides made for excellent tide pool viewing and study (best day June 4th at -2.1 tide). The visitors (one group visiting from Arizona!) and school groups were very interested, curious, cooperative and for the most part, well organized. One school group (Ca Cargeda Middle School -Thomas and Carlo) returned for the third year with 98+ wonderful students and parents. There were a few glitches here and there with miscommunication about beach site location, a couple of visitors removing sea weed and muscles off the rocks and unplanned school groups arriving (Mel Ehlers handled that group wonderfully, Thanks Mel!). But the great moments, like Biella School children excitedly describing their follow-up project of creating a mini tide pool in a shoe box using pictures of their day, and we docents being able to stimulate this passion in our visitors, really makes this program and all of you shine.

All of this excellent, safe searching and exploration could not have happened without the equipment maintenance, organization, and training guidance from our very own Michele Luna and Annie Cresswell; the dedication of park staff, Jeff Mecchi, Brit Horn, Aaron, Ryan, Raul Escobar and Mike Wisheart; and of course, the endless dedication and patience of the wonderful Tide Pool Coordinator and wonderful docents: Brenda Aronott, Lisa Bacon, Bill Bambrick, Diana Bunkelis, Robert C., Alexandra Carlson, Bill Carlson, Joyce Carlson, Melissa Carlson, Ann Chambers, Bill Chambers, Mel Ehlers, Andrea Freeman, Sandy Horn, Doreen Lamont, Mona, Keary Sorenson, Sally Sorenson and others.

We are hoping to help out with this journaling on a regular basis and get it on the website for you all to be able to see and view. It is part of our Girl Scout Silver Award project this year for which we will be hosting (along with the Pee Wee Audubon Society) a "Tide pool" day at the beach in June and would love help from any of you docents that can be there! Let us know. We will add you to the email for it. Hope to see you at the Tide Pool training on April 9th and on the beach soon! Happy Tide pooling! Melissa and Alexandra Carlson (lamcarlson@aol.com).

MORE THAN SEALS FOR THE SEASON!

Melissa and Alexandra Carlson, Docents

There were over 50 docents working at Goat Rock Beach during the Seal Watch Season from March 7th to August 29th, providing visitors with insightful and interesting information on our harbor seals, their pups, the elephant seal, sea lions, birds and many other interesting creature features and history of our coast. We could not have had the successful season we had without the dedicated help of Park Ranger Jeff Mecchi and his staff, Michele Luna & Annie Cresswell, our Seal Watch Coordinator Bob Caricato and the monthly coordinators as well as the over 50 docents volunteering at the beach!

Our dynamic season began with the hauling out of three harbor seals the first day of watch, the arrival of our third year returning elephant seal on March 13th and the sighting of our first gray whale the following day. Just a month into season, Norma Jellison and Sandra Ingram witnessed a seal pup birth along with a handful of interested, amazed and respectful visitors. It was another spectacular day too when Ann and Bill Chambers observed spotted seals feeding on eels and cormorants dueling over eels at the river mouth. And, what about the unbelievable luck on May 8th when Norma Jellison and Keary Sorenson viewed 7 sets of pacific grey whales, 2 humpback whales just off shore, up to 20 sea lions near the mouth dining, over 200 harbor seals hauled out and many bird species flying overhead. Days like these clearly prove this has to be the most fun and rewarding volunteer job there is.

Gale force winds and blowing sands may have slowed down visitors to the beach on certain days, but not



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How to Volunteer for VIP Programs

Call the Stewards office at 869-9177 or email, volparks@mcn.org

Program Activities

Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Staffing
Nature Walks
School Program
Trail Maintenance
Habitat Restoration Project
Pond Farm Interest Group

Sonoma Cst State Beach

Visitor Center Staffing
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tidepool Program
Watershed Program

Other Projects

Recycling & Firewood
Office Help & Events

Volunteer Program Coordinators

Joyce Bacci, ARVC
Lanny Keyston, AR Trails, FAR
Skaidra Smith-Heisters, AR Restoration
Laura Parent, Pond Farm
Linda Fisher Jenner VC
Bob Caricato, Seal Watch
Bea Brunn, Whale Watch
John Cole, Recycling
Vacant, Willow Creek Education
Rob Dickerson, CAT
The Sorensons, Marine Debris
Bill Chambers, Tidepool Programs

State Park Volunteer Coordinators

Ranger John Kolsrud,
Armstrong/Austin Creek
Ranger Jeff Mecchi,
Sonoma Coast State Beach

NEW MEMBERS IN 2005

Patron \$200 plus

James Goerlich

Business \$100

Supporting \$100

Singles Outdoor Activities & Recreation (SOAR)

Contributing \$50

*Lorraine Bazan
Vern Drehmel
Victor Rumsey
Renee Armstrong*

Family

*Janet & Alan Coleman
Hernandez Realty
Dr. Douglas & Janice Pile
George & Rosamond
Warren*

Individual

*Christina Burch
Robert Ellinthorpe &
Felice O'Ryan
Carol Grandy
Ginger Moser
Larry Standley*

SEAL WATCH

Continued from page 5.

the seals. Our highest count was on July 11th with 470 seals spread out between the north and south beaches and the river, what a party that must have been. A note on the seal socializing: for the most part the elephant seal behaved himself this season, with the exception of a visitor report on 7/18 of him "tossing a seal into the air," and days over the season of him flushing the harbor seals off the beach by growling and aggressive movements. In fair turn, there were many days reported that he seemed to blend in quite well with the harbor seals and was a "gentleman" on the beach. By July 27th he had fully molted and was quite the gentleman. There was a little more excitement with two separate sightings at Goat Rock Beach (5/16 and 6/12) of red stained faced harbor seals, usually found in San Francisco Bay (the red stain or "red pelage" is caused from iron oxidation which is a condition that turns the hair of certain seals red. There appears to be no ill effect on the seals and the condition is thought to be caused by the iron content in the bay). There were two journal entries about two "dead" harbor seal sightings without follow up on what happened. It would be interesting to know, or try and find out, cause of death and location, any other observations, etc. Overall nature of the season was awesome!

Determined kayakers and boaters were abundant in their numbers with over 528 kayaks, and over 22 boats counted throughout the Seal Watch shifts alone. It still seems that kayakers/boaters in general did not adhere to the signs and pretty regularly flushed out seals off the beach into the water by boating too close, pulling up on the beach and walking too close to the seals, flashing camera photos too close, some attempting to maneuver through the mouth (many unsuccessfully), getting caught in rough water flowing into the mouth or capsizing when too close to seal activity. Earlier on in the season, on March 14th one couple with no life jackets on ignored the sign, got into trouble and capsized, only to come out of the water with their canoe (very lucky as the water was very rough). Sadly, they left behind in the river their cell phone, camera, a wedding ring and a lot of flushed seals. Maybe more, or clearer signs or a permanent neon sign would be helpful for the kayaks and boats, on both beaches?

Equipment overall was good for the season. The scope, it's tripod, the walkie talkie (not working/wrong batteries), tide books, signs, and tangled ropes seemed to be the biggest equipment issues. As the season progressed these problems did get addressed and mostly resolved.

Over 5,026 interesting and delightful visitors came to the Goat Rock Seal Watch area this season (a few shifts did not report visitor count). We had a few journal notes of disrespectful or inappropriate behavior from visitors towards our seals and/or docents. Our busiest days were 7/11 and 8/8 with 175 visitors counted during one shift for each day. WOW! The windiest and sandiest day recorded would have to be 6/13 with gale force winds literally blowing docents and visitors off the beach, you could not even see the harbor seals. And, one of the most beautiful and gorgeous days would have to be March 14th, when it was sunny, warm, with a slight breeze.....Record of the most birds journaled was a day in May and again in June, with both describing brown crested cormorants, oystercatchers, barn swallows, grebes, caspian terns, vultures, brown pelicans, gulls and more. Best journal quote was from docents Tina Prange and Gary Goodman when they wrote on June 13th, "Harbor seals get cuter every day!" We agree, it is so true.

Just remember that when you are filling our your Seal Watch Shift Log sheet that you share observations that would be fun and interesting for us all. We hope soon to publish the 2004 Seal Watch Log/journal entries on the website for you all to read. We are working on this for our Girl Scout Silver Award Project this year and are having a lot of fun! The 2005 season will begin soon and we look forward to seeing you on the beach!

Keith Nelson's 2005 Tide Pool walks at Salt Point State Park

(Meet at the Gerstle Cove Visitor Center)

Sunday	April 3	1-3 p.m.
Sunday	April 10	8-10 a.m.
Sunday	April 17	1-3 p.m.
Sunday	May 1	11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
Sunday	May 15	11 a.m.- 1p.m.
Sunday	May 29	10 a.m. – 12 noon
Sunday	June 12	9-11 a.m.
Sunday	June 26	9-11 a.m.
Sunday	July 10	9-10 a.m.





ARMSTRONG REDWOODS STATE RESERVE & AUSTIN CREEK STATE RECREATION AREA

Lanny Keyston, Trail Crew & FAR Coordinator

The Friends of Armstrong Reserve (FAR) had their first meeting of 2005 on January 4th with a full agenda. Eleven people attended with plenty of ideas for the improvement of the Reserve and with the willingness and enthusiasm to work on the many needs of Armstrong Woods. The second meeting was held on March 1st.

John Cole, the bench maker extraordinaire, has had several of his handmade benches placed throughout the Reserve. Stewards received a request to have a bench placed in the Reserve in honor of an individual along with the funds for materials. It was obvious who would be asked to build the bench; however, the discussion that ensued was where to place the bench. The Parks approval was need for this to happen; Dave Horvitz, Supervising Ranger at Armstrong, did get the approval. Since the January meeting, John has made the bench and it was placed at the top of Pool Ridge trail by the trail crew. The site has a great view across the mountains toward Mount Tamalpais.

Please, do not look too closely at the diorama in the Visitor Center; it is very much in need of refurbishing. This topic has been discussed in the past with only minor work being done. The stuffed animals are getting shabby and need replacing. There are people on the committee willing to work on this, but we need new specimens. Anyone who finds a recently deceased animal can call Stewards' office to see if it is one we are looking for. Be careful handling a dead animal—wear gloves—they could harbor pathogens.

There are 2 manuals in the works: one to be used by teachers when planning a field trip to Armstrong; the other to be used for docent/guide training. These manuals should be completed in the next few months.

Earth Day, April 23, 2005, was discussed as to what projects can be done at Armstrong by the volunteers. Two possibilities came up: the spreading of gorilla hair (redwood bark) on the trails; fixing fences, or both.

For sometime we have wanted to replace the redwood round on Pioneer Trail, i.e., the round that has the historical markers. FAR members and State Park staff are on the look out for a 5-6 meter round. If anyone has any leads please contact us.

The planting part of the restoration is finished for now. The check dams in Fife Creek have been removed; Brenden, the Park ecologist, is pleased with the outcome, the creek is now flowing more naturally.

Other projects in the works include a history of Lizzi Armstrong being compiled by Doris Dickenson, and a special event to commemorate the 70th year for Armstrong Redwoods.

The need for docent/guide volunteers is greater than ever. Requests for tours have increased. Call Stewards' office to get involved.

The next meeting will be May 5, 2005, at 10 a.m. in the Stewards' office building.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration Required - call (707) 869-9177 or Email stewards@mcn.org

ARMSTRONG REDWOODS DOCENT TRAINING

Interpretation with Children, April 2, 2005, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Volunteer Center at Armstrong

Getting to Know the Park - Trail Hike, April 16, 2005, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

TIDE POOL EDUCATION AND ROVING DOCENT TRAINING

April 9, 2005, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Bodega Bay Grange

April 30, 2005, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Meet at Shell Beach

JENNER VISITOR CENTER DOCENT TRAINING

May 7, 2005, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Visitor Center in Jenner

FISHERMAN'S FESTIVAL - BODEGA BAY

April 16 & 17, 2005, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Volunteers needed for 1/2 day shifts

April 18, Volunteers needed for cleanup

ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT BENEFIT FOR STEWARDS

June 3, 2005, 11:30 a.m. \$110 includes, golf, tee prizes, and lunch. Call Bill Dickinson, 525-1459.

DUNCANS MILLS ART & WINE FESTIVAL & RUBBER DUCK RACES

July 23 & 24, 2005, Volunteer needed

BODEGA SEAFOOD, ART, & WINE FESTIVAL

August 27 & 28, 2005, Volunteers needed

NEW MEMBERS IN 2005 - CONTINUED

Seniors/Students

*Bodega Bay Community
Association*

John Davenport

Col. Walter Grandjean

Elizabeth Hawkins

Robert Knight & Barbara St.

Louis

Adrian & Ann Mac Nab

Richard Stringall & Carolyn

Jones

Glen Vadon Construction

Stewards members receive this quarterly newsletter with information about Sector parks, special events for members and opportunities for volunteering. Members are also entitled to discounts on purchases at Stewards run visitor centers and at special events.

VIP docents earn annual day-use passes.

Give a **GIFT MEMBERSHIP** to Stewards to a relative or friend.

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Membership Form

Renewal

YES, I'd like to become a member.

- Senior/Student \$15.00
 Individual \$20.00
 Family \$25.00
 Contributing \$50.00
 Supporting \$100.00
 Business \$100.00
 Patron \$200.00 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 Volunteerism

With your help future generations will enjoy quality interpretation through "Volunteers in Parks" programs for many years to come. A gift to Stewards is the simplest form of giving from your estate. There are several types of charitable bequests by will (or beneficiary designation).

Sample:

I hereby give and bequest 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_____.

Contact your legal advisor for further information. There are also other planned giving options for your consideration.

For Information on contributing to Stewards' **Endowment for the Armstrong Restoration Project**, please contact Michele Luna at the Stewards office (707) 869-9177.

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

PO Box 2, Duncans Mills, CA 95430

(707) 869.9177, FAX (707) 869.8252

stewards@mcn.org, stewardsofthecoastandredwoods.org



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