

# STEWARDS of SLAVIANKA

Preserving the Redwood Coast

Volume XIX, Number 4, Winter 2002



## Good-Bye Bob La Belle Happy Retirement

On November 16th Bob La Belle, our Russian River District Superintendent received a well deserved send off by close to 300 of his friends, family and colleagues. The event took place at the Vineyard Creek Conference Center in Santa Rosa and the work that went into the event was phenomenal. The District staff, as well as planning committee members from other districts, honored Bob with a Hollywood tribute. Notable attendees were Assemblyperson Virginia Strom-Martin, Acting State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, Chief of Interpretation Donna Pozzi, Supervisor Mike Reilly and many friends from parks throughout the State. There was good representation from *Stewards* and other local organizations such as the Sonoma Land Trust and the Sonoma Coast Advisory Committee.

Bob La Belle came to the Russian River District in 1993 at a time when the community was very disillusioned by the current leadership. Bob did an incredible job building bridges and making himself available to anyone who wanted to bend his ear. He achieved much for our District because of his willingness to listen to the public and address their concerns, which is why it is so difficult to say good-bye. Bob will be moving to Lodi with his wife Gloria to enjoy his retirement with his daughters and their families.



### Mission Statement

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

### CA State Parks Supported

*Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve and Austin Creek State Recreation Area*

*Sonoma Coast State Beach including the Willow Creek Watershed*

*Salt Point State Park and Kruse Rhododendron*

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| General Volunteer Orientation                     | Jan. 11, 2003   |
| Seal Watch Training                               | Feb. 8, 2003    |
| Nature Guide Training                             | March 7, 2003   |
| Armstrong Redwoods                                |                 |
| Plant ID and Wildflower Hike                      | March 8, 2003   |
| Sonoma Coast - Pomo Canyon                        |                 |
| Plant ID and Wildflower Hike                      | March 9, 2003   |
| Armstrong Redwoods                                |                 |
| Tidepool Training                                 | March 15, 2003  |
| Tidepool Interpretation                           | March 19, 2003  |
| Guerneville Library                               |                 |
| Salt Point Training                               | March 22, 2003  |
| Tidepool Exploration                              | March 26, 2003  |
| Tidepool Exploration                              | March 29, 2003  |
| Fisherman's Festival                              | April 5-6, 2003 |
| Earth Day Volunteer Events                        | April 12, 2003  |
| Annual Golf Tournament                            | May 30, 2003    |
| Call (707) 865-0180 or volparks@mcn.org for info. |                 |

## Welcome Joe Mette

We'd like to welcome our new District Superintendent Joe Mette who comes to us from the Central Coast District. Joe started the job on December 6th and we look forward to getting to know him and sharing with him the work we are doing to support our Parks.

### SALE AT THE ARMSTRONG VISITOR CENTER

Selected State Park T-shirts, Sweatshirts and Sweaters are on sale at greatly reduced prices. Come visit the VC for great Holiday Gifts for all ages. Members receive a 10% discount!

## Board Members

Leah Mahan, *President*  
Silva Diaz, *Vice President*  
Joy Schaber, *Secretary*  
Kathie Lowrey, *Treasurer*  
Jim Bray  
Al Ciocatto  
Rob Dickerson  
Bill Dickinson  
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## Executive Director

Michele Luna

## VIP Program Coordinator

Jana Gay

## Admin. Assistant

Annie Cresswell  
Emily Luna

## Professional Staff

Donna Chinlund  
Amy Smith

## State Park Positions Funded by Stewards

## Interpretive Specialist at Salt Point State Park

Chris Lods

## Newsletter Staff

Michele Luna  
Jana Gay  
Joy Schaber

## Contributors

Rick Royer  
Ranger Karen Broderick  
Norma Jellison  
Ranger Dave Horvitz  
Bea Brunn

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Michele Luna



As 2002 comes to an end I am reflecting on the challenges that we faced this year and also our accomplishments. With the global environmental concerns we read about in the papers daily I try to stay focused on what I can do close to home that will hopefully have a cumulative affect in making a difference for the environment worldwide.

Our efforts to assist State Parks in protecting and restoring our natural resources have been notable. We have continued to support the restoration of two watersheds, Fife Creek and Willow Creek. We have developed new partnerships to aid in their recovery with organizations like LandPaths, the Trust for Public Lands, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, West County Watershed Network, and the Russian River Watershed Council. Funding was received from the City of Santa Rosa through the efforts of the Russian River Watershed Protection Committee. We started the Willow Creek Citizen Action Team (CAT) which is now monitoring the watershed for water quality on a weekly basis. With the help of CAT and the El Molino Ag. Biology class, who has adopted Willow Creek as a service learning project, we completed a two-day restoration cleanup in November.

Thanks to the efforts of staff, volunteers and hired contractors we are very proud to have made wonderful progress on the new environmental education programs we are developing for our parks. Both the Willow Creek Watershed and Tidepool Education programs will be ready for more student participants this coming spring. We hope the Armstrong Education program will be ready to go as well.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to the *Stewards* Board of Directors. I am very honored to work with such a dedicated group of individuals. We have added new board members this year which has strengthened our organizational leadership. I look forward to working on our strategic planning goals and a new resource development plan with them in the coming year.

I also want to thank our members, donors and volunteers. Without your support we couldn't provide the current level of funding and staff support for our state parks. During this past year we asked you for additional support and received an overwhelming response. We greatly appreciate that.

We are very pleased to be offering you more educational opportunities this coming year so stayed tuned to the newsletter or visit our website for updates. May you and your families have a safe and blessed holiday season.

## New Board Member

**Rob Dickerson:** Rob's family has been residents of Sonoma County for over 100 years and he currently lives in Windsor. He has a BS in Geology from UC Davis and is a California Registered Environmental Assessor (REA). Rob has over 22 years experience in the geothermal energy industry. Ten years were spent working on exploration, production and development of geothermal energy in the western US and other prospects around the world. The last twelve years were devoted to environmental, health and safety compliance for The Geysers for Unocal and most recently Calpine. He is currently the President of the Geysers Geothermal Association, a group devoted to promoting The Geysers for the benefit of the resource and the local community. Rob's skill set includes Project Management, Training, and Regulatory Affairs. Volunteer work includes Windsor schools, Sonoma County parks, and local politics. Rob is the coordinator of the Willow Creek Citizen Action Team (CAT).

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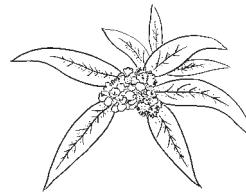
## CAL REPORT

Rick Royer, Cooperating Association Liaison and District Volunteer Coordinator

I'd like to take the opportunity in this issue of the *Stewards* newsletter to say a few things about 2 people that are leaving the Russian River District. As most of you know by now, our District Superintendent Bob La Belle has retired. Bob has done so many things to support our District Volunteer Program and *Stewards* during his tenure as superintendent; it would be impossible to mention them all. I will try and mention a few significant items. The number of volunteer programs has grown along with the number of volunteers involved in those programs. It was with Bob's complete support that we have been able to expand *Stewards*' effort into more effective resource management projects and educational programs at Armstrong Redwoods and Willow Creek. Bob was very concerned that all employees and volunteers were properly recognized for their efforts within the District and wholeheartedly supported our annual Volunteer Celebration. This was exemplified when he attended our first celebration after attending an all day meeting in Mendocino. His commitment to the Russian River District is one that we should all be proud of.

The District is also losing another valued member of the Russian River team. Supervising Ranger Chazz Potthast has accepted a Supervising Ranger position within the Marin District. Chazz has been in this District for over 22 years. During that time he has been a strong and sometimes a lone voice for the protection of Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve. Through many years of persistent effort, Chazz was able to begin the effort to restore Armstrong Redwoods, with the Armstrong Redwoods Habitat Protection and Restoration Project. The project is well underway and will be a legacy to Chazz and others that are committed to "Restore the Grove".

I know we all wish both Bob and Chazz the very best in their future endeavors.



## Volunteer Program Coordinator's Report

Jana Gay

Happy Holidays! I'd like to send a big "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated their time or resources to *Stewards* this year. You make our programs possible.

Although it is year end, I have been quite busy planning for 2003. We had an amazing turn out for the Whale Watch training in November with more than 50 volunteers attending! Thanks to all of you who showed up and welcome to our new members. The season begins January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003.

The Willow Creek Citizen Action Team (CAT) has begun weekly monitoring at three sites on Willow Creek. Training is ongoing, so if you are interested in helping out, give us a call and we'll put you in touch with Rob Dickerson, the CAT program coordinator. We will soon start posting the monitoring statistics on the Internet and will have a link to the site from our new and improved website when it is completed. Keep an eye on our site...it will be changing! It is our goal to update our website with more current program information, interactive forms, and easier accessibility. We want it to be educational and inspirational!

Another important goal for 2003 is to complete the manuals for *all* of our programs. We are well on our way since we have just completed the Willow Creek Watershed Teachers Guides. They will go through a bit more editing and will be off to the printers shortly! Our next focus is the Tidepool Education manual. Amy Smith has completed the draft and it is currently in editing. I am excited to say that it will definitely be ready before the Tidepool Training on March 15, 2003! After that we will be completing the Armstrong Education Teachers Guide. It is currently in progress and I am planning to have it completed, edited, and copied well before the Armstrong Training on April 19, 2003.

Another focus for the coming year will be to continue to further our mission to provide our members and volunteers with more opportunities for learning about and enjoying our environment. In order to achieve this, I have been busy planning a series of interpretive events that cover such subjects as the history of our area, learning more about the local flora and fauna, and interpreting to the public. So check out our schedule of upcoming classes and hikes and by all means, take advantage of these opportunities.

*continued on page 5*

## Event Sponsors

### Golf Tournament

Stanley Adams  
Blanchard & Associates  
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Carlenzoli & Associates  
Chanslor Wildlife  
Empire Eye Doctors  
Richard and Linda Fish  
Freeman Toyota Lexus  
Gene Gaffney Insurance  
Jere & Sara Jacobs  
Longs Drugs Stores  
John Metzger  
Proliant, Inc.

Michael Sohigian  
Rich Williams

### Duck Race

Softub  
Marin Outdoors  
Summit State Bank  
Bodega Bay Lodge  
Stillwater Cove Ranch

### Hike & Paddle, Raffle, Volunteer Celebration

Alexander Valley Wines  
Bodega Bay Kayak  
Buffalo Direct  
Burke's Canoe Trips  
Casini Campground  
Chateau Souverain  
Della Faltoria  
Gallo of Sonoma  
Gold Coast Coffee  
Gold Coast Kayaks  
Guerneville Graphics  
Hop Kiln Winery  
Jenner Inn & Cottages  
Krush 95.9  
La Tortilla Factory  
Lagunita Brewing Co.  
Lake Sonoma Winery  
Chris Lods  
Lotus Kayak Rentals  
Marin Outdoors  
Merchants of Duncans  
Mills  
Mr. Canoe  
Not a Band  
Oakville Grocery Co.

*continued on page 4*

## DONORS

2001-2002

### Foundations

City of Santa Rosa

FishAmerica/NOAA

Restoration Program

Fisherman's Festival

Allocation Committee

Russian River Watershed

Project - Prop. 13

Sonoma County

Community Foundation

California State Parks

Foundation

Medtronic Foundation

### Corporations

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Omware, Inc.

Santa Rosa Community

Market

Summit State Bank

Washington Mutual Bank

### Individuals

\$500 or more

Susan Barreto

Terry Grant

Laura Morgan

Jean Schulz

Michael Sohigian

Brian Tuller & Thomas

Mountain

### Event Sponsors

*continued from page 3*

### Hike & Paddle, Raffle, Volunteer Celebration

Paradise Ridge Winery

Preston Vineyards

Quivera Vineyards

Rio Theater

River Village Resort

Russian River Celebration

Russian River Chamber

Sage Marketing

Sonoma Cty Water

Agency

Sunce Vineyards

Topolos

Village Inn & Rest.

West Coast Kayak

# I AM A MURRELET AND I'M OK

*Ranger Dave Horvitz*

Imagine one hundred and fifty years ago. You stand in a deep redwood canyon as the sun sinks below the horizon. The air cools, fog rolls in and the treetops flame with the last rays of the sun. Darkness settles and the canyon quiets to the rustling of animals bedding down for the night. Chilled now, in the fog and increasing darkness, you listen, ear turned upward.

Listening for the first call, the first sound of "keer, keer". Coming from the ocean you hear it. The sound grows and becomes many voices circling overhead, heading inland to the largest redwood trees. Soon the calls reverberate through the canyon, louder and more frenzied. You see the small, brown, football shaped birds with wings, covering the sky, making their way to their nests for the evening and know that the day has drawn to a successful conclusion.

Years ago, this would have been a common scene in many coastal redwood canyons along the Pacific Northwest. Many years of human encroachment, resource abuse and poorly practiced logging techniques have depleted this bird's prime breeding habitat of old growth redwoods and Douglas firs. The federal government has declared this ocean dwelling, tree nesting, and chubby robin-sized small bird to be endangered.

The marbled murrelet has a wingspan of about 16". They are black and white in non-breeding plumage and mottled dark brown during breeding. This change camouflages the birds as they nest. They have been seen off Goat Rock in breeding plumage and are seen off Bodega Head during the winter. This means they should be nesting somewhere along the coast.

Murrelets fly between the ocean and their nest around sunrise and sunset each day. They are consistent enough to set your watch by their flight. The birds are well adapted to swimming with webbed feet that are set well back on their body. These feet are not suited for clinging to branches. Murrelets must seek out large trees where there are branches wide enough to be used for nesting, such as old growth forests.

Murrelets have not been documented as nesting along the Sonoma Coast. Surveys conducted over the years have been inconclusive. There are plenty of suitable nesting spots near the ocean and the birds have been known to travel up to fifty miles inland to roost. There might only be a small number of birds locally, making their detection more difficult.

The new Red Hill property has potential murrelet habitat and was surveyed last summer. One night a week, all summer, park staff camped out overnight on top of the hill in order to be in place for the morning murrelet commute to the ocean just before sunrise. There were some very cold, windy, foggy, icy nights and mornings to no avail. The nest sites remain a secret. Our time was well spent since we did get to see some great shooting stars, and hear what was thought to be a red-legged frog. Some nights were filled with the sounds of owls and coyotes.

Main concerns for the murrelets' survival revolve around breeding habitats and predator population. Ninety percent of the old growth forests in California, Oregon and Washington have been cut down. With assistance from many private, public, and non-profit organizations much of the old growth forests have been protected by some type of park, open space or preserve. Some old growth trees are still being logged. Many conservation-minded groups are still working to preserve what is left.

Ravens and jays take their toll eating the young murrelets while still in their nest. Un-protected garbage cans located outdoors provide food for the ravens and jays. This artificially supports and increases the predator population. These birds have been on the increase as more humans recreate outdoors. One fix is simply to be careful with garbage and make sure it is secure from wildlife. Some areas offer bird- and bear-proof garbage receptacles.

These days you might have to hunt and listen long and hard to locate the flyway of the marbled murrelets. It is well worth the effort once you hear and see them overhead. When seen flying and listening to their "keers" it is easy to see that murrelets are needed for the ecosystem and our own inspiration.



## 2002 BOARD STAFF RETREAT

Joy Schaber

On Saturday, November 23rd, Board Member Bill Dickinson once again opened his lovely home to the *Stewards* Board and Staff for our annual retreat. Breakfast treats and hot drinks welcomed us in from the mist outside. Board attendees included Bill Dickinson (he didn't have to travel far!), Leah Mahan, Lee Hackeling, Kathie Lowrey, Rob Dickerson, Lanny Keyston, Joy Schaber and Jim Bray (fresh after arriving 24 hours earlier after 3 weeks in Asia), and we were also joined by Rick Royer (DPR liaison), Michele Luna (Executive Director), Jana Gay (Program Coordinator), and Karen Broderick (Salt Point Ranger). Once we had all vied for our favorite donuts and woke up a bit, we completed the board business at hand in less than the half-hour allotted! Exciting board business included approving the 2003 Board Officers, as follows: President, Leah Mahan; Vice President, Silva Diaz, Treasurer, Kathie Lowrey; and Secretary, Joy Schaber. Congratulations to all! We also approved a budget for 2003 that was meticulously prepared by our Finance Committee with input from the Parks.

After the board business concluded, we were ready for a program of learning, sharing and developing with our facilitator, Monica Grant. She works as a consultant to non-profits after spending many years in resource development for groups such as the YMCA and United Way. We hope to have Monica help us plan a major donor program so we aren't so strongly dependent on special events and grants.

At the retreat, Monica started us off with some interesting trivia: Did you know that \$212 billion dollars was given to charities in the US in 2001 (including religious-related donations)? Wow! Let's get a chunk of that to help with the budget! We explored the assets we have presently, and that was quite eye opening (we sure do a lot). We need to let the community know about our strengths and what the outcome is of our efforts. Then we listed what we hoped to accomplish with our work in *Stewards* and with the Parks. We'll be revising our vision statement with information from this list! Monica also provided some helpful handouts on resource development.

We took a short break to enjoy a scrumptious lunch of soups, salads, pastas and salmon along with a variety of desserts - not your basic sandwiches for sure! Then we got back into more learning about board development and how to set up a solid "case for giving". It was great to have Monica facilitate the meeting not only due to her expertise, but also because Michele was able to be a full participant instead of split into two roles.

Thanks to everyone for a great day, and we look forward to 2003!

## Volunteer Program Coordinator's Report

*continued from page 3*

These classes are free of charge and are intended to help our members, volunteers and the community increase their knowledge of our local resources. Please give us your feedback, we want to know what you think!

Speaking of learning experiences, do you have more time to volunteer? We are looking for volunteer coordinators for several of our programs including Seal Watch (training will be held February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2003 and the season runs March through September), Marine Debris Survey (once a month commitment), and Armstrong Tours (year round). I will work closely with the coordinators to complete training and program planning for the 2003 season. If you are interested please contact me.

As far as wrapping things up for 2002, we are still waiting to receive quite a few volunteer hours forms. If you haven't yet sent yours in, please do! We need them before we can arrange for the free 2003 Park Passes.

That's about all for now. Once again, Happy Holidays! I look forward to working with you in the coming year!



### **VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE NOW DUE FOR 2002**

Please call the *Stewards* office at 865-0180 if you need a volunteer hours form. If you want a day use pass for 2003 you must turn in a form.

## How to Volunteer for VIP Programs

Call the VIP office  
at 865-0180 or email,  
[volparks@mcn.org](mailto:volparks@mcn.org)

## Program Activities

### Armstrong Redwoods

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

### Sonoma Cst State Beach

Visitor Center Staffing  
Seal Watch  
Whale Watch  
Tidepool Programs  
Watershed Programs

### Salt Point State Park

Visitor Center Staffing  
Nature Walks  
School Programs  
Junior Ranger Program

## Other Projects

Recycling & Firewood  
Office Help & Events

## Volunteer Program Coordinators

Joyce Bacci, ARVC  
Lanny Keyston, *AR Trails*  
Joan Bacci, *AR Restoration*  
Laura Parent, *Pond Farm*  
Katie Killefer, *Jenner VC*  
Mary Follis, *Seal Watch*  
Bea Brunn, *Whale Watch*  
John Cole, *Recycling*  
Ginny LaVine Barrera,  
*Willow Creek Education*  
Rob Dickerson, *CAT*  
Amy Smith, *Marine Debris*  
Sandy Horn, *Tidepool Prog.*  
Jonatha Foli, *Tidepool Roving*

## State Park Volunteer Coordinators

Ranger John Kolsrud,  
*Armstrong/Austin Creek*  
Ranger Jason Smith,  
*Sonoma Coast State Beach*  
Ranger Karen Broderick  
*Salt Point State Park*

## NEW MEMBERS

2002

### Patron \$100 plus

*Sara and Dan Penn*

### Supporting \$50

*Robert Dickerson*

*Paula Green and Eric  
Mays*

### Contributing \$25

*Carla and Dan*

*Estabrook*

*Robin Guilfoyle*

*Dr. & Mrs. George  
Payne*

*Dr. and Mrs. Rivers*

*Bob and Marnette  
Rivers*

*Sarah Yardley*

### Family

*Robert Harkavy*

*Shawn-Paul O'Dell*

*Scott Stinebaugh*

*Larry Tiller*

*Robert & Angie Toepp*

### Individual

*Silva Diaz*

*Dana Dunn*

*Juanita Larimore*

*Nicole Terry*

*Silva Silvia*

*Loretta Smith*

*Mary Stockton*

*Deborah Waller*

*Camille Wood*

### Seniors/Students

*Margaret Boynton*

*Susan Gardner*

*Martin Gerber*

*Sandra Glover*

*Sam McCandless*

*Robert Ryden*

## AN OCEAN TEEMING WITH LIFE ON A SEPTEMBER DAY

*Norma Jellison*

On Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> annual boat trip of a group of Whale Watch folks ventured to Cordell Bank (a National Marine Sanctuary), leaving Bodega Bay in the fog at about 8:30 am. Cordell Bank is a part of the same mountain chain as the Farrallons. However, since this mountain never made it to the surface it is called a seamount!! The Cordell Bank is one of North America's northernmost seamounts. This Bank encompasses 22 square miles of water less than 300 feet deep. Several pinnacles on the bank rise to within 120 feet of the surface. Surrounded by waters 400 feet and much deeper, the Cordell Bank provides an oasis of shallow nearshore habitat in a deep water offshore outer continental shelf location. Considered one of the most biologically productive areas on the West Coast, it is a place of rich upwellings, and thus a place where one can find all manner of sea life! This was the second year the group chose the Cordell Bank trip offered by Oceanic Society, rather than travel to SF for a trip to the Farallons. And we were not disappointed.

Leaving the harbor at low tide, we were treated to hundreds of wading birds, such as marbled godwits, whimbrels, great egrets, great blue herons, all just off the bow in "ankle" deep water foraging for their breakfast. It's hard to believe the Bay is so shallow! Of course, the highlight is the massing of white pelicans – our summer guests in the Bay, and a delight to watch as they team fish in a circle. At the jetty, we caught the brown pelicans and cormorants on display perched on the rocks.

Then we were off on the 2+ hour push for Cordell Bank. Pelagic birds (that would be ocean-going birds that live predominantly at sea, coming on land only to lay eggs and raise their young) greeted us non-stop on our journey. Murres, puffins, auklets, shearwaters, sabine gulls, and albatross were some of the highlights. Then, an awesome event occurred. We had ORCAS!! No mistaking those dorsal fins approaching our boat. A small pod of five (3 females and 2 calves) swam close by for quite a while, giving everyone great views of their majesty. This was a real treat for everyone on the boat, naturalists and captain included. It was certainly the first time any of us had seen orcas in the ocean during our trips along the Marin/Sonoma coast.

We had some humpback teases on the way out, but the real show was to come as we got to the waters of the Cordell Bank. Suddenly, there were hundreds and hundreds of dolphins everywhere we looked. Pacific white sided and northern right whale dolphins and one Dall's porpoise for good luck, bow sprinting along with the boat and leaping out of the water all around us. What acrobats! Lots of cow/calf pairs, surfacing almost as a single unit. And then the humpbacks arrived. Not the hundreds and not the breaching athletics that we enjoyed last year, but they were surfacing close enough to hear their exhale! They were good enough to stick around for quite some time, so that we began to notice to distinctions of the markings on their tails, which is the way they are identified. Oh, and did I mention, seas so calm it was like a bathtub out there?! And so the boat floated with a gentle rock, and we all watched the dolphins cavort and the humpbacks swim around us for at least an hour. What a treat!

The fog lifted early-on, giving us high overcast (OK, a few peeks of blue sky and sun for about an hour in the early afternoon), good visibility, no wind and comfortable temperatures. Other highlights of the trip were lots of moon jellies, mola mola or sunfish – a large disc of a floating fish with a flipper wave as it dived – blue sharks, harbor porpoise, and of course an occasional harbor seal and sea lion single or pair. One seal lion was totally lollygagging – lying on its side with one flipper in the air, completely nonplused by the boat and so many eyes, binoculars, and cameras focused on it.

On the way back in we swung by the island off Bodega Head and discovered it was absolutely teeming with seals, sea lions and birds. Hard to imagine how they manage to cram themselves onto every available inch of the island and nearby rocks.

Eight hours after we set out, we returned to the Bay, again amidst the wading birds lining the channel. We docked, thanked the naturalists, captain and deck hand/cook for a great trip, and counted ourselves blessed once again to have the fantastic resource of the Pacific Ocean close by to revel in its magic and many wonders.

# SALT POINT STATE PARK

By Ranger Karen Broderick



It's amazing how quick the summer has blown by us. I'm sure many of you can attest to why I say 'blown'. The beautiful fall weather is now upon us. It's been an unusual fall season this year with the campgrounds as full as in August.

We've had a very successful season at the Salt Point Visitor Center with 2,323 visitors passing through. Chris Lods, the Salt Point Interpretive Specialist, also had a busy season leading walks. His Pomo basket weaving was a new addition and a huge hit with children and adults alike. He has put on 28 Junior Ranger programs with 207 children attending. Volunteer Keith Nelson and Chris had 985 visitors attending their walks through the summer.

We now have a beautiful self-guided trail up to the Pygmy Forest thanks to a grant from *Stewards* member Michael Sohigian and Chris' work. Each stop has a lovely panel with descriptions and interesting facts about the plant life. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy this trail, please pick up a map and put on your hiking shoes.

We also have two new panels with Chris' outstanding art work. One is at the Kruse Rhododendron Reserve, which gives information on the history of the area and about rhododendrons. The second panel, called 'A Protected Cycle of Life', is at Stump Beach. This panel gives an overview of the formation of the sandy beach and some of the fauna found there.

Chris will be leading school groups in spring then park visitor walks on weekends starting in May 2003. Try not to miss his excellent walks at Kruse Rhododendron Reserve in late April and early May.

There's been a real stable core group of volunteers that have kept the Visitor Center open over the years. Keith, Ray, Jeanne, Ev, Fran, Dick, Bea, Colleen and Rich: Thank you for your countless hours! We also have three new Salt Point Visitor Center Volunteers, Silva, Janie and Dale, who have really pitched-in to keep the visitor center open. A special thanks to Silva who put in 46.5 hours and the season is not over yet!

Remember to mark your calendars for the Salt Point Visitor Center orientation and luncheon on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2003, and come join the fun!

## Wish List

Salt Point State Park is in need of a trailer to house our Interpretive Specialist. It needs to be about 24 feet long and in very good condition. Please contact Michele (mluna@mcn.org) at the *Stewards* office if you have a lead on such a donation or are interested in donating one yourself.

## WHALE WATCH

Bea Brunn, Whale Mother

What a turn-out we had for our orientation on Saturday November 9<sup>th</sup>! Fifty-four people signed in, both old-timers and new-comers!!

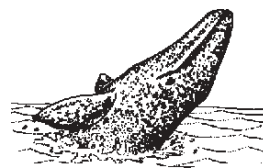
From DPR we had Rick Royer, Rich Lawton and Mike Wisheart, and from *Stewards* we had Michele Luna and Jana Gay. There was a lot of interest and many questions from everybody.

After all the talk we had sign-ups for the whale watch season. We already have every weekend covered – in spite of the fact that several people advised they would sign up at a later date.

Lifeguard Aaron Pendergraft gave us a talk about ocean safety while we were still at the Grange, because there was a prediction of a heavy squall heading our way. The weather, however, cooperated, and we all headed up to Bodega Head to look at and admire the beautiful 20 foot swells.

Thanks to Jana for providing coffee and goodies – and thanks to everybody who showed up and decided to join us.

We look forward to another great season, and we'll also tell you about our annual trip to Cordell Banks in September. This is sounding like a broken record – but – this year definitely was our best trip ever with lots of sightings and a flat, calm ocean.



**Volunteers Needed  
for Firewood and Building  
Projects on Sonoma Coast  
Call Lanny Keyston  
(707) 823-5640**

## HONORARY MEMBERS

### 2002

Stanley Adams  
Keith Barner  
Mike Bennett  
Steve Bennett  
William & Frances Bray  
Carlenzoli & Associates  
Chanslor Wildlife, LLC  
Richard Crane  
Barbara DeCarly  
Richard and Linda Fish  
Mark Freeman  
Jim Fox  
Gene Gaffney Insurance  
Michael and Linda  
Hantman  
James Harwood  
Jan Heller  
Jere & Sara Jacobs  
Dr. Dan Lightfoot  
Rod McWhinney  
Bruce Mentch  
John Metzger  
Robert Moll  
Tom Mueller  
Russell Nishikawa  
Mike and Joann Pierre  
Bob Records  
Nick Royer  
John and Barbara  
Seymour  
Don Slezak  
Jon Slezak

**Where does our name come from?**

"Slavianka" was the Russian name given to the Russian River by 19th Century settlers at Fort Ross; it means "little Slavic maiden."

Stewards members receive this quarterly newsletter with information about the District's parks, special events for members and opportunities for volunteering. Members are also entitled to discounts on purchases at Stewards run visitors' centers. VIP volunteers earn annual day-use passes.

Consider giving a **GIFT MEMBERSHIP** to Stewards to a relative or friend. Use the form on this page as a guideline and let us know who the gift is for and from. We'll send a note to the recipient letting them know they have received this special gift from you.

**STEWARDS of SLAVIANKA**

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
- Special Gift \$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 Slavianka, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California, with a principal address at P.O. Box 221, 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.

**WE HAVE DECIDED TO DROP THE ACRONYM SOS AND CALL OURSELVES STEWARDS FOR SHORT. PLEASE HELP US MAKE THIS ADJUSTMENT AND UPDATE OUR EMAIL ADDRESS IN YOUR ADDRESS BOOK.**

**CALL 800-320-0476 TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION IN THE NAME OF STEWARDS OF SLAVIANKA**



*Return Service Requested*

**Stewards of Slavianka**  
 P.O. Box 221  
 Duncans Mills, CA 95430  
 707.869.0180  
 707.869.0190 FAX  
 stewards@mcn.org  
 www.stewardsofslavianka.org

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