

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXV, Number 1, Spring 2018



Past and Future Connections to Pond Farm Pottery

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Stewards is very proud to be presenting the *Past and Future Connections to Pond Farm Pottery (Connections)* exhibit in partnership with California State Parks and the Sebastopol Center for the Arts from March 30th to May 6th.

The *Connections* show, an exhibition of the creative breadth of work by Bauhaus-trained master potter Marguerite Wildenhain and her students, will provide visitors with an opportunity to reflect on their own lives, including sources of challenge and inspiration, while considering the catalysts that can serve as tools for active and responsible engagement in the world. The show will explore how the lives of Marguerite's students (Pond Farmers) were transformed by their experiences between 1952 and 1980 at Pond Farm Pottery.

Pond Farm was conceived during World War II by San Franciscans Gordon and Jane Herr as a "sustainable sanctuary for artists away from a world gone amuck." Its enduring story lives large in the legacy of master potter Marguerite Wildenhain, the first woman master potter graduate of the Bauhaus, who fled Nazi persecution to start a new life with the Herrs outside of Guerneville in rural Sonoma County, with Pond Farm Pottery encompassing Marguerite's home, studio and school until her death in 1985. Pond Farm was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014 for its national significance in the areas of art, education, and social history.

All aspects of working on projects centered around Pond Farm Pottery bring inspiration and connections with people from all over the world. Marguerite Wildenhain has left an important and lasting legacy in her students and all the lives her story touches.

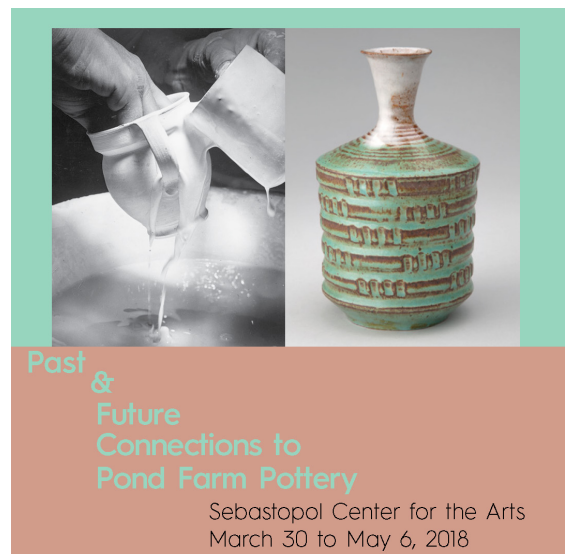
The **opening reception** from noon to 2 pm on April 7th is a pre-sold event that will include appetizers and beverages, along with an opportunity to meet and hear directly from Pond Farmers about Pond Farm life under the guidance of their esteemed teacher (tickets at pondfarmpottery.org). From 2 pm to 4 pm, Pond Farmers will join a free public viewing of the exhibit to discuss their work with attendees.

The exhibit will feature some works of Pond Farmers that will be for sale to benefit the Pond Farm Restoration and Revitalization Project. Workshops and tours of Pond Farm Pottery will also be offered for the public and school groups during the exhibit period. Visit pondfarmpottery.org for more information.

Since 2012, Stewards and State Parks have shepherded the rehabilitation and reactivation of the Pond Farm Pottery Historic District, abounding in compelling chronicles that speak to themes of art history, Jewish immigrant history, women's studies and the philosophy of education, within its unique state park setting.

The *Connections* exhibit is in part made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities (calhum.org). Other funders include the Clay and Glass Arts Foundation (clayandglassarts.org), a gift in memory of Ron and Bev Judd, and Creative Ceramics. In-kind services are being donated by Hybrid Design - San Francisco, SpeedPro - Santa Rosa, and M4 Specialties - Guerneville.

Pottery for the exhibit is on loan from the Forrest L. Merrill collection, the Sonoma County Museum, and the collections of many of Marguerite Wildenhain's students.



Mission

Stewards Promotes, Restores & Protects Your State Parks.

Vision

Stewards is the link between people and their parks.

State Parks

Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve
Austin Creek State Recreation Area
Sonoma Coast State Park

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Executive Director Report

Michele Luna, Executive Director

I'm thrilled to welcome our new Volunteer Programs Manager, Kat Rawhouser and our new District Superintendent, Terry Bertels to our successful Stewards/California State Parks partnership. Bringing in new perspectives is always good for a partnership and we look forward to engaging with both Kat and Terry as we continue our efforts to achieve sustainability for Stewards and the State Parks that we have been promoting, restoring and protecting for the past 35 years.

We started off 2018 as busy as ever, and with reduced staffing it meant everyone needed to pitch in and help where needed. I am very grateful to Annie, Nik, Tracie and Mina for doing an amazing job in the office considering we also accomplished the soft launch of our **new website and data management system**. The new website has been in development for over a year and I believe it was time well spent as we considered how best we could make the site informative as well as more user-friendly. Special thanks to Webhelper for listening to our requests and doing a great job incorporating them into the new site. Every day new features are being added that make it easy for staff to retrieve the information we need quickly and efficiently. There is also a new volunteer management component being built for us that will make it possible for volunteers to schedule their shifts online. We expect to launch this new feature in the coming months. In the meantime, you can logon as usual and see your account information—events you have signed up for, your donation history, you can make payments and volunteers can enter their volunteer hours. Since this is a soft launch, we are still working out the bugs but we will be asking for your feedback in a few weeks.

With the spring rains, your parks are as beautiful as ever. Our wonderful operations staff have been working hard on park improvement projects in preparation for the upcoming busy season. Thank you Scotty, Hut, Carlos and Rachel! They are awaiting your visit with open arms and smiles on their faces.

Welcoming Kat Rawhouser, Volunteer Programs Manager

Hello, my name is Kat Rawhouser. I am a California native. I was born in the Bay Area but grew up in the central San Joaquin Valley in a small town south of Stockton. I attended school at the University of the Pacific and graduated in 2013 with a B.S. in Geology.

After graduating I joined the Peace Corps and served for two years in Paraguay as an Environmental Education Volunteer in the town of Tobati in the Cordillera Department about three hours by bus northeast of the capital of Asunción. My duties as a Peace Corps Volunteer included the planning and execution of projects, recruiting and managing local volunteers, and teaching at the K-12 level.

Following my service in the U.S. Peace Corps I took a position at a state coal museum and historic site in northeastern Pennsylvania, near Scranton where *The Office* is filmed, named Eckley Miners' Village. There I worked in a variety of roles including fund development, volunteer programs, special events and the sites' educational offerings.

After a year in the northeast I decided to seek employment closer to home and have been working for the last year at the Child Abuse Prevention Center in Sacramento planning, developing and implementing their AmeriCorps VISTA program. VISTA is a one of several federal AmeriCorps volunteer programs nationally administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Now, as I embark on a new chapter, I am very excited to join the Stewards Staff as the Volunteer Programs Manager and look forward to meeting and working with all of you!



CA State Parks Report

Terry Bertels, Sonoma Mendocino Coast District Superintendent

Greetings Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods members. My name is Terry Bertels and I am the new District Superintendent of the Sonoma Mendocino Coast District of the California State Parks System.

I am very happy to be here and beyond thrilled to have a chance to assist in stewardship of some of the most exciting and beautiful locations in the world. Redwoods and Pacific Ocean coast, what could be better than that?

First, let me get this out of the way. Yes, I am from Kansas. I am proud to be from Kansas. Kansas has its own special type of beauty and charm, I will never be ashamed or embarrassed to be a native Kansan. But let me be perfectly clear, Kansas is not California and very little about Kansas will ever be confused with anything about California.

That being said it is a little eye opening how similar park agencies can be from place to place. In my position I deal with people, places and things. Here there are different people, sometimes really different people, there are different places and there are different things but within that difference there is a similarity that is comfortable. Problems and issues may be bigger or smaller but they are familiar.

I am married to Alice, my wife of 35 years, she is a retired teacher. We have two adult children, Emily and Allison. Emily and her husband Jesse are the proud parents of my two beautiful grandchildren Ellie and Jack. Alice will be going back and forth from Kansas as

time and needs allow and arise. Emily and her family are in Lawrence Kansas and Allison is in Brooklyn, New York.

I am a graduate from Kansas State University with a BS in Natural Resource Management. I began my career as an urban forester managing street and park trees in Topeka Kansas. From there I worked my way up to the Director of the City of Topeka Parks and Recreation Department.

My chief interests are in park operation and resource management but I have had my fair share of managing an urban recreation program. Give me trees and water anytime over adult softball and swimming pools.

I like to think of myself as a people person. I like to consider topics and issues from the other person's point of view before I determine a course of action. I have found that having an open mind to various possible actions more often leads to a positive outcome versus "my way or the highway". That being said, I have my limits of tolerance after which I get bullheaded and generally disagreeable. I am hopeful, and it is my expectation, that I will not get to that point often, if at all, in this position.

I want you to know that over my 35+ year career in managing parks there have been countless job notices pass my eye. I was not interested enough in any of them to uproot my family to go do them. My wife had a career as a well-respected award winning teacher that she loved, my kids were in good



New superintendent, Terry Bertels. Photo credit: Kansas Recreation & Park Association.

schools with close friends, my extended family was nearby, etc. Some of that has changed and some has not.

However, when I saw the job posting for California State Parks managing a district in Northern California I immediately took notice. After talking with my wife I applied. During the interview process I made it clear that I was not interested in just any job with California State Parks, I was interested in a job managing parks with redwoods and Pacific coast.

I truly want to be here, with you, in Northern California playing whatever part I can in managing and safeguarding these wonderful resources that exist only here. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you as together we work to make the Sonoma Mendocino Coast District of the California State Park system the crown jewel of the department.

We Are Hiring!

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods is currently seeking:

- An **Administrative Assistant** to start at approx. 10-20 hrs per week, with the flexibility to work up to 40 hrs per week mid-June, depending on the workload. Weekend days are required for special events.
- A **Service Aide** to assist our Field Operations staff. Duties include entry kiosk operations, customer contact, campground and trail maintenance.

Full job descriptions & duties available at stewardscr.org/staff-jobs.html. Stewards is an equal opportunity employer. Please send your cover letter and resume to the specified contact. NO PHONE CALLS please.

Helping Out Bouverie Preserve

Scotty Lawyer, Field Operations Manager

It's a wonderful opportunity to lend a hand when another group needs that extra boost. On February 12th, we were able to do just that. Yet another victim of the October fires was Bouverie Preserve, in Glen Ellen. Bouverie Preserve is a private preserve, managed by Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR). They specifically cater to 3rd, and 4th grade, environmental education day hikes.

I've had the pleasure of working with this organization many times over the past years, and when they called out for a little assistance, I was only too happy to try and help. They lost the main hall, and several residences to the blaze. In addition to these losses, the preserve had been impacted, as trees fell across the trails, restricting access, and compromising safety for the potential school groups this spring.

By chance, I had the opportunity to chat with several of the staff in charge, and offered the aid of myself, and also reached out to members of our trail crew. The response that was received was incredibly heartwarming. Eight members of our crew stepped up to volunteer that day, to help get the trails open again so that the preserve could begin hosting school groups.

Bill Bambrick, Joe Riedel, Duane Nebblett, Alan Durall, Allen Bealer, Rich Lawton, Mike Witkowski, and Dan Gurney joined me that day. When we arrived, we were met by the land steward, Kurt Heffernon. Equipped with trail tools, and chainsaws, we reopened many of their trails in record time. Several other areas are slated to be cleared soon, after an ecological survey, and at that time I hope we are able to continue to lend a helping hand.

We all have the common goal to keep the lands maintained, and to continue giving students the chance to come out, and learn what it means to become stewards of the parks, and preserves. The gratitude that was shared between our organizations was evident in the smiles and pride we all expressed in getting the trails open for the new upcoming school groups. I hope this unity grows as we all work together, helping one another, and protecting the gifts we have in our community.

I express my gratitude to all Stewards everywhere.

Top: Two fallen trees obstructing the nature trail at Bouverie Preserve. Top middle: Trail crew volunteers assess the trunk base for cutting. Bottom middle: Scotty Lawyer liberating the tree from its base. Bottom: The upper trunk is left in place to delineate the trail.

Want to help? The Stewards Trail Crew has been assisting State Parks with trail maintenance, bridge building and other important projects since 1993. This active group, of men and women of all ages, comes together monthly to tackle stewardship projects in Armstrong Redwoods & Austin Creek (2nd Wed. of the month), and at Sonoma Coast State Park (4th Wed. of the month), including the Willow Creek watershed (1st Wed. of the month).

Under the expert leadership of Program Coordinator Bill Bambrick and Field Operations Manager Scott Lawyer, the Trail Crew works hard to maintain and restore these beautiful open spaces. Volunteers may receive specialized training so they can operate restricted equipment, such as chain saws and drive state vehicles. Learn more at stewardscr.org/volunteer-opportunities.html.





Gray whale breaching off Bodega Head. Photo credit: Guy Mohr.

Whale Watch 2018 Season Beginnings

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Program Coordinator

This year's launch of Whale Watch with its pleasant weather was in marked contrast to last year which was stormy. January continued to be mild with calm ocean conditions and good visibility and the whales cooperated with many sightings. And, best of all, we were treated to many breaches. It is quite dramatic to see a 40' whale launch itself out of the water and splash down, sometimes multiple times in a row. Given breaching is not a typical or guaranteed behavior, both visitors and the volunteers were equally thrilled.

February winds wreaked a little havoc on our ability to last the shift. On the days we had good weather and calm seas, we continued to have a steady stream of southbound juveniles passing by close enough for good views.

Mid February, as is usually the case, we had our first few northbound whales. These are the newly pregnant females. They got pregnant on the southbound migration or in the mating and calving lagoons in Baja. Since they have not eaten for many months, they are focused on getting to the feeding grounds in the Arctic seas. There they eat amphipods non stop which will allow them to sustain what will ultimately be a 1500 to 2000 lb calf.

The northbound parade of adults should pick up in numbers through March and April. In mid April, we will see mothers with their calves headed north to Alaska. They hug the coast, stop to nurse and rest often and give us the best views of our beloved Pacific Gray Whales.

Come join us some weekend at the Head. We'd love to share our enthusiasm for the Gray Whales with you and help you look for the whales as they pass by!

In Loving Memory of Jacque Mielke

Stewards wishes to express our deepest condolences to the family of long-time volunteer, Jacque Mielke. She passed away very recently and we are saddened by this news.

Jacque was dedicated to the Armstrong Visitor Center for over 20 years. She was honored in December with the highest volunteer award from State Parks, a Volunteer Medallion. She was always cheerful, helpful and a pleasure to be around. Stewards is honored to be named as one of the organizations suggested for memorial donations. A memorial service is scheduled for June 16. For details, please contact Michele, michele@stewardscr.org or (707) 869-9177 ext. 4#.



Image from left to right: Mike Lair, Jacque Mielke & Michele Luna.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in a program?
Call Stewards at
(707) 869-9177 or email
kat@stewardscr.org

PROGRAMS

Armstrong Redwoods

Visitor Center Docent
Docent Tour Guides
Roving Docents
Trail Crew/Maintenance
Pond Farm Interest Group

Sonoma Coast State Park

Visitor Center Docent
Seal Watch
Whale Watch
Tidepool Programs
Watershed Program
Sonoma Coast Stewardship
Pinniped Monitoring
Seabird Monitoring

Other Projects

Office Help & Special Events

PROGRAM COORDINATORS

Greg Armstrong & Julie Cross,
Seal Watch
Joyce Bacci & Dori Heath,
Armstrong VC
Bill Bambrick, Trail Crews
Ralph Higgins, WC Trail Crew
Hollis Bewley, Seabird &
Tidepool Programs
Linda Fisher, Jenner VC
Norma Jellison &
Rich and Colleen Draffin,
Whale Watch
Kirsten Lindquist, SC Beach
Watch
Keary & Sally Sorenson,
Marine Debris
Michele Luna, Pond Farm
Kat Rawhouser, Pinniped
Monitoring, Watershed &
Armstrong Tour Guides

Upcoming Events

Register & get details at stewardscr.org/upcoming-events-programs.html or (707) 869-9177.

SONOMA COAST WILDFLOWERS

MEETS: SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM, SHELL BEACH PARKING LOT

FEE: \$16 STEWARDS MEMBERS, \$20 REGULAR

A great opportunity to join naturalist Laura Morgan for a Wildflower Hike on Sonoma Coast. Park in the lot just south of Shell Beach, off Carlevaro Way, at 10 AM. The hike will go up to 3 miles north, to Blind Beach. Participants can hike as far as they feel comfortable. Families with kids are welcome (no charge for kids under 13). Hikers would need to bring fluids and bag lunches. Significant rain would cancel.

POND FARM DOCENT-LED TOURS

MEETS: MARCH 31, APRIL 9, 14, 22 & 28, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, STEWARDS OFFICE CARPOOL TO POND FARM

FEE: \$16 STEWARDS MEMBERS, \$20 REGULAR

Take a docent-led tour of Pond Farm Pottery and learn about the history of this significant cultural site that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn about the dreams and challenges of the Herr Family and Marguerite Wildenhain, the first woman master potter to graduate from the Bauhaus. Pond Farm was Marguerite's home, school and studio for over 30 years and she taught hundreds of her students in the traditions of the Bauhaus.

THROWING WORKSHOP WITH POND FARM STUDENTS

MEETS: THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FEE: \$24 STEWARDS MEMBERS, \$30 REGULAR (INCLUDES ART SUPPLIES)

Thor Thoreson and Peter Deneen, former Pond Farm students, will demonstrate and explain Marguerite's sequential 'step' method of teaching throwing. This is a system she employed where one begins by learning to throw basic simple shapes on the wheel, then moves on to successively more complex and difficult forms. There are 16 shapes that are taught and as they progress, they learn to make a complete dinner ware set, pitchers, covered jars, cup and saucers, tea and coffee pots, plates, and bowls.

CLEAR CREATIVITY WORKSHOP WITH BRIAN MARTENS

MEETS: MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, STEWARDS OFFICE CARPOOL TO POND FARM

FEE: \$16 STEWARDS MEMBERS, \$20 REGULAR

Brian Martens, former Pond Farm student, will share new information and clarity about being in the Creative "Zone" and also how to stay in the "Zone". The workshop offers the basics of where creativity comes from and, for those who have spent a lifetime creating, it offers new ways of looking at this precious commodity of creation. New research on focus and the creative process will be shared. There will be an experiential session as well as a group discussion where participants will be able to offer their insights from their years of experience. This will be a valuable sharing of the creative process.

FOREST BATHING WALK

MEETS: SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, ARMSTRONG REDWOODS SNR

FEE: \$16 STEWARDS MEMBERS, \$20 REGULAR

Explore the health benefits, science & history behind Forest Bathing as we take a 2-hour guided walk through ancient coastal redwoods. Led by Denell Nawrocki, MA (Certified Forest Therapy Guide).

LEARNING TO SEE INTO & DRAW FROM NATURE

MEETS: SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM, STEWARDS OFFICE CARPOOL TO POND FARM

FEE: \$24 STEWARDS MEMBERS, \$30 REGULAR (INCLUDES ART SUPPLIES)

Marguerite Wildenhain taught her students to be responsive to nature, understanding form and design from keen observations. They drew to discover the essential qualities of the subjects, drawing those that sparked their response. In this drawing session, artists Natalie Robb-Wilder and Susan McKinney will focus on ways to see into nature and translate the qualities you discover into drawings with emphasis of line, shapes, and contrasts: to stimulate your ability to "form with feeling."



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Hollis Bewley
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Rhonda Berney
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Osprey Circle

David Westphal

Contributing Harbor Seal

Kelsey Crowe
Don Dickenson
Ken Jenkins
Nila Rosen

Otter Family

Connie Ayers
Amythest Faria
Laura Galvan
Shari Garn

Catherine Luther
Don & Elaine Ransom
Meshach Ross

Individual Trillium

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Vicky Combs
Cindy Dry
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Jack & Beth Russell
Jill Templeton
Amber Valenzuela
Melissa Witte

Owl Senior & Student

Carol Allwine
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Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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

Michele Luna
(707) 869-9177 ext. 4#
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- \$25 Owl Senior/Student
- \$35 Individual Trillium
- \$45 Otter Family
- \$100 Contributing Harbor Seal
- \$150 Bobcat Business
- \$250 Gray Whale Patron
- \$500+ Osprey Circle

Payment Type: Check (made payable to Stewards)

Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover acceptable)

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

Signature: _____

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

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

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