

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

Preservation through Education and Stewardship

Russian River Sector State Parks

Volume XXXV, Number 2, Summer 2018



First Lifeguard Tower for Sonoma Coast

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Stewards is very pleased to have played a role in providing a new lifeguard tower at Goat Rock State Beach on the Sonoma Coast. Special thanks to Supervising Sonoma Coast State Park Lifeguard Tim Murphy for his help and support in coordinating the tower order, delivery and installation.

Funding was provided by Russian River Watershed Protection Committee's \$40,000 settlement with Sonoma County Water Agency resulting from their 2012 legal challenge of environmental adequacy of the Estuary Management Project's Environmental Impact Report. Stewards became the fiscal agent for those funds, which were spent on trail work and signage at South Salmon Creek Beach, in addition to Seal Watch signs in Jenner and at Goat Rock State Beach. The remaining funds have been spent on the first lifeguard tower on the Sonoma Coast as well as new signage to make sure the public understands that Goat Rock is not a swimming beach and a directional sign telling people where they can and cannot take their dogs.

The goal of this project is to provide a more visible presence at one of the most dangerous beaches on the coast. Goat Rock is what is called a "steep beach," where the beach drops off close to shore creating a washing machine effect where people can get pulled under and swept out to sea. The tower will be staffed on busy weekends and holidays. The tower is situated on the south end of the beach where Sonoma Coast State Park lifeguards have a much-improved vantage point to see all the way to the river mouth. The lifeguards and our Seal Watch volunteers will also be in communication with each other, creating added protection for the seals from public interference.

Project partners California State Parks, Sonoma County Water Agency, Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, and Stewards invite the public to a **ribbon cutting ceremony** on **Saturday, July 7th at 10:30 am**. There is no cost to attend and no RSVP necessary. Come and hear from California State Park staff how they hope to prevent tragedy at Goat Rock State Beach in the future.



Supervising Sonoma Coast State Park Lifeguard Tim Murphy surveys the new lifeguard tower at Goat Rock State Beach.

Save the Date ~ Stewards' 2018 Annual Events

JULY 21 - GOURMET WALK IN THE WOODS

Armstrong Redwoods SNR, 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Appetizers & wine, live music, poetry and silent auction.



JULY 21 - POETRY IN THE REDWOODS

Armstrong Redwoods SNR, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Poetry readings in the Redwood Forest Theater.

AUGUST 11 - SUNSET DINNER

Austin Creek SRA, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Pond Farm tour, gourmet dinner & sunset views.

AUGUST 25 & 26 - BODEGA SEAFOOD ART & WINE FESTIVAL

Watts Ranch, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM Sat (5:00 PM Sun)

Art booths, live music, food, wine & beer tasting.

SEPTEMBER 15 - OLD GROVE FESTIVAL

Armstrong Redwoods SNR, 4:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Concert featuring New Monsoon & Kathy Kallick Band.

Read more & purchase tickets at www.stewardscr.org. For upcoming seminars & orientations, see page 6.

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

Contact

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stewards@stewardscr.org
www.stewardscr.org

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Executive Director Report

Michele Luna, Executive Director

It was such an amazing spring with the late rains that kept Fife Creek flowing into May, an abundance of wildflowers in all our parks and a wonderful tide pool season with lots of intertidal critters to behold!

As we transition to summer and the weather warms up we are already reminded of the dangers of wildfires. Knowing how vulnerable our wilderness areas are, Stewards acted as soon as the grasses started to dry out with fire bans in Austin Creek SRA. First the backcountry sites were banned and then Bullfrog Pond Campground as of last weekend. Our Forest to the Sea day campers were one of the last groups to be able to make s'mores over a campfire at Bullfrog Pond Campground this season. For the rest of the summer and until the rains come again, fires will not be allowed. Luckily, after last year's devastating fires in Sonoma County, our campers are very understanding.

Initiating these decisions is just one of the many services we provide State Parks as a park operator. Stewards is now finishing up our sixth year operating Austin Creek and managing visitor services in Armstrong Redwoods. We are looking forward to renewing our contract for at least another five years. State Parks will continue to provide maintenance and hospitality in the park. Stewards will continue operating the camping facilities in Austin Creek including hospitality, maintenance and tree work. We continue to oversee the volunteer trail crews in both Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek, and one of the most important services we provide is excellent visitor service at the entrance to both parks. In addition to our dedicated operations staff, there are docents in the parks most days staffing the visitor center, leading tours, roving along the park's trails or acting as a camphost in the campground. They provide eyes and ears in the park and help us address issues or notify State Parks about issues they are responsible for addressing. State Parks will continue providing oversight of natural and cultural resources and managing the water system in both parks. State Parks also provides law enforcement when they are available. In the coming months, Stewards and State Parks will embark on a strategic planning process that will outline our project goals as co-managers for the next 3-5 years.

With the reservation system at Muir Woods increasing visitation at our parks by 1.3 million visitors a year, we are in need of your donations to help us co-manage Armstrong Redwoods and Austin Creek. Thank you for your support!



Photo credit: Mark Anderson

Welcoming Erin Harer, Administrative Assistant



Erin joined Stewards as of May 2018. She has a background in office administration and is a Certified California Naturalist. Erin grew up in Windsor and has always considered Armstrong Redwoods and the Russian River area her second home. In her free time, Erin likes to camp, garden, and play music with her daughter.

We are excited to have her on the team!

Contact Erin (erin@stewardscr.org) about:

- Membership
- Donations
- Account management
- Camping inquiries

Forest to the Sea Summer Day Camp 2018

Kat Rawhouser, Volunteer Programs Manager

For the last few summers, Stewards has hosted a week-long summer day camp with one overnight to celebrate the week's adventures. This summer, twenty-five intrepid campers — aged 9 to 13 from Sonoma County and beyond — came for a week of exploration, learning and outdoor living.



Later in the week, they hiked up the East Ridge Trail through redwood forest and riparian oaks to spend a night camping in Austin Creek. They learned about survival skills, backpacking and living in the backcountry. Finally, campers hiked down from Bull Frog Pond Campground to Pond Farm Pottery and back into the shade of redwoods learning about the history of the park and how people have lived in harmony with these parks.



Trekking from Forest to the Sea, the campers began their journey learning about Redwood Ecology beneath the boughs of ancient giants in Armstrong Redwoods.



Our Volunteer Programs Manager Kat who organized the camp reflected that, "It was great to see how interested these children are in regard to the natural environment. One of the best moments was when our youngest camper Liam raised his hand and said 'I have an observation.' It was great to see them taking in their surroundings and make connections between their experiences in nature and how that relates to human understanding of the natural sciences, conservation and stewardship."

They then explored the coastal prairie along the Kortum Trail, heading from Shell Beach to Goat Rock Beach where the Russian River meets the Pacific. There they looked at flora, fauna and terra while learning about how our natural and geologic history has shaped the modern landscape. They also waded into tide pools to discover urchins, starfish and the plethora of life found in our coastal waters. Following that, campers stepped into mysterious dunes to study the tracks and trails of animals that hide in these transitional landscapes.

Thank you so much to everyone who participated, contributed their time, gave financial support, and helped make Day Camp a success. We hope to see you next year!



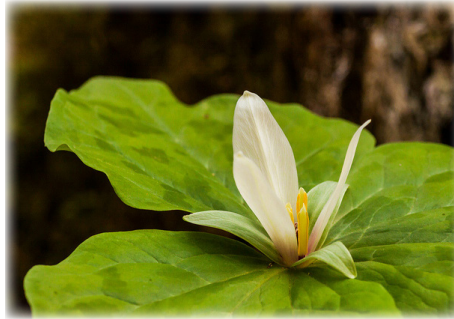
Donor Advised Funds: An Effective & Flexible Way to Give

Jeff Edmonds, Certified Financial Planner & Stewards Board Member

One of the fastest growing philanthropic vehicles today is the Donor Advised Fund. Donor Advised Funds offer a flexible and convenient way for individuals to give to Qualified Public Charities. Donor Advised Funds are not new, in fact they were created in 1931 by the New York Community Foundation. In recent years they have grown in popularity due to their ease to establish, significant tax benefits, flexibility and the ability for individuals to make grants to their favorite charities. Today there is close to \$100 billion in DAF's and growing.

The DAF offers important benefits to the donor that includes immediate tax benefits, flexibility and discretionary grant making. The structure can allow an individual to operate their DAF in a similar fashion as a large foundation with much smaller contributions.

They are easy to establish with select financial organizations that provide



the proper platform. They act as a custodian and allow the donor to create and name the DAF for the benefit of the desired charity. The DAF allows the donor to make an irrevocable contribution for the benefit of a qualified public charity. They receive an immediate tax deduction and can add funds at any time. The donor can invest the assets on a discretionary basis or choose a trustee to manage the account. The fund grows tax free and allows the donor the ability to make grants at any time, with the ability to change the beneficiary as desired.

Contributions to a DAF are flexible and generally accept cash, securities, stocks, mutual funds and real estate. In some cases they can accept certain complex assets such as S and C Corporation Stock and restricted stock. They are also useful in donating highly appreciated stock or real estate without the expense of creating charitable trusts. The result of this structure makes the DAF simple to administer and make grants to your favorite charity easy.

If you're interested in giving and wish to maintain control of your philanthropic goals, the donor advised fund might be the right choice for you. It is important to check with your tax professional for the benefits and make sure your beneficiaries qualify for the DAF.

These are excellent vehicles to support your favorite charities, including Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. Please consider us!



Leaving a Legacy

Michele Luna, Executive Director

Over the past few years, Stewards has been honored to receive legacy gifts, or bequests from a number of our members or the families of members of our organization after they passed on. Legacy gifts help Stewards provide added value in and for our parks. A number of our park interpretive panels were the result of gifts in memory of a loved one.

Carmen Finley started an endowment that is providing an endless supply of books and DVDs written and published by she and Doris Dickenson that provide important information about the history of Armstrong Redwoods.

A bequest made from the Josephine Marks Estate helped to fund environmental education programs at Armstrong Redwoods for youth for over two years.

Before he passed away, Russ Whitman created an endowment for the restoration of and education at Armstrong Redwoods and he also provided a \$10,000 gift that helped to produce a video about Pond Farm Pottery.

Most recently, Stewards was honored to receive a \$10,000 bequest from Jacque Mielke after she passed away. As reported in our last quarterly newsletter, Jacque was a long-time member of Stewards and a dedicated State Park volunteer. Because Jacque cared deeply about Armstrong Redwoods, I am honored to work with her husband Don to provide some new interpretive signage for the visitor center, help make the new Welcome Center ADA compliant and provide support for our redwood ecology environmental education programs.

Working with donors to provide a meaningful legacy is one of the favorite parts of my job. I enjoy involving family members in the process as much as possible. If you are interested in leaving a legacy gift to Stewards and would like to make sure your wishes are realized, please don't hesitate to contact me at michele@stewardscr.org or (707) 869-9177 ext. 4#.



The Fire-Follower Flower

Darlene LaMont, Volunteer & Nature Photographer

Have you heard about the famous flowers blooming in the burned areas of Sonoma County? It's quite a story!

Whispering Bells, or *Emmenanthe penduliflora*, are the fire follower that last bloomed in 1964 and won't bloom again until the next fire. This flower is most common in dry, recently burned areas. Nitrogen dioxide in smoke, even in tiny amounts, causes Whispering Bells to germinate their seeds. It is a common plant of the chaparral ecosystem, which is prone to wild-fire—a fire-follower that shows up only in the year after a wildfire. The plant comes up from a weedy-looking basal rosette of sharply lobed leaves.

Whispering Bells that grow in the desert where fires are scarce are not fire followers; these seeds germinate by having the wind push them across the desert floor. All that bumping and scratching along the desert floor causes cracks which then can allow moisture in to start the germination process.

Emmenanthe is a monotypic genus (the only plant in this genus) of annual plants with fleshy foliage which exudes a sticky juice with a light medicinal odor. The inflorescence is a terminal cluster of flowers, borne on slender pedicels less than one inch long. The blooms have five sepals and five yellow or pinkish petals in a bell-shaped. The flowers dry and become light and papery. The dry hanging flowers make a rustling sound when a breeze comes through, giving the whispering bells its common name. The dry flower also contains a fruit about a centimeter wide. Some botanists place it in the Family: BORAGINACEAE. Others place it in HYDROPHYLLACEAE.

End of Whale Watch Season 2018

Norma Jellison, Whale Watch Program Coordinator

May 20th marked the end of this year's Whale Watch season, and what a season it was! From a southbound mother and calf in March to fewer northbound mothers and calves during typical peak April to May, we didn't quite know what to make of the migration this year. Wind and rain also confounded us. Regardless, we still had many amazing days at the Head.

We witnessed juveniles breaching over and over, and a number of calves that spyhopped, lunged and breached right in front of us. Since the mothers and calves swim by so close to the Head, those events are a special treat. What a show when a 30-ft baby whale launches itself up and out of the ocean and then crashes back down with an awesome splash!

Our volunteers, stationed at the display table with baleen (whalebones), a whale barnacle, and (yes) whale lice, engaged visitors from all over the world. Adults and children alike are fascinated by the facts about the Pacific Gray Whale and its migratory lifestyle. We count ourselves lucky to be able to see the whales from land.

In spring, it was a bonus to watch gulls, cormorants, pigeon guillemots and oyster catchers nest among the rocks, and see the steady stream of pelagic birds flying north just off shore. The coastal wild flowers further contribute to the beauty of the oceanside environment.

Although Whale Watch won't occur again until next year's southbound season (starting in January), Bodega Head is always an inspiring place to spend time!



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

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

WEDNESDAY WELLNESS WALKS

Meets: Every Wed. thru Oct. 31, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center

Fee: Free

Easy Walks to Enhance Physical & Mental Well-being: Studies show that walking in the woods helps boost your immune system, reduce blood pressure and stress, aid in recovery, increase energy, improve sleep, and more. Enjoy a free docent-led walk in the woods, every Wednesday from 10:00 - 11:00 AM, at Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve! Groups meet at the Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center, located in the entrance parking lot of Armstrong Redwoods SNR (parking is free).

POND FARM DOCENT-LED TOUR

Meets: Sat., July 14, 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.

EXPLORING THE INTERTIDAL ZONE FIELD SEMINAR

Meets: Sun., July 15, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Miwok Beach

Fee: \$16 Stewards members, \$20 regular

Rescheduled from May. Join a lively session of tide pool exploration along the Sonoma Coast with Karl Menard, Bodega Marine Lab Aquatic Resources Manager. Dress in layers and bring water-friendly shoes. This seminar is geared toward adults, but children over 7 years are welcome with parental supervision.

GOURMET WALK IN THE WOODS

Meets: Sat., July 21, 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM, Armstrong Redwoods Picnic Area

Fee: \$52 Stewards members, \$65 regular

Enjoy a walk along the Pioneer Nature and Discovery Trails with appetizers and wine pairings and live music sponsored by local chefs, wineries and musicians, followed by desserts, poetry readings and silent auction in the Redwood Forest Theater.

POETRY IN THE REDWOODS

Meets: Sat., July 21, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Redwood Forest Theater

Fee: Free

Celebrate the legacy of literature in CA State Parks! Free event open to all ages. Listen to poetry from 16 poets and reciters, including local high school Poetry Out Loud contestants, CA Poet Laureate Dana Gioia, and Sonoma County Poet Laureate Maya Khosla.

FOREST BATHING WALK

Meets: Sun., July 22, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM, Lizzie Armstrong Jones Welcome Center

Fee: \$16 Stewards members, \$20 regular

Join Forest Therapy Guide Denell Nawrocki for a 2-hour Forest Bathing Walk, taking in the atmosphere of the forest for health and wellness purposes. We will explore the science and history behind the practice, deepening our understanding of its potency, and walk through the ancient redwoods, integrating and experiencing all we learned. Come and delight in the therapeutic benefits of our beloved Redwood grove. Group meets at the Welcome Center, located in the entrance parking lot of Armstrong Redwoods.

CPR/AED TRAINING

Meets: Sat., July 28, 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM, Stewards office/Volunteer Center

Fee: \$60 Stewards members, \$75 regular

This course is for anyone requiring CPR/AED certification. This class covers CPR/AED training for adults and children as well as choking. You will leave empowered and confident in your skills. This class meets AHA research guidelines and infant components can be added if desired. Classes are taught in a hands on and dynamic format. This is not a video based course. The certification is valid for 2 years. Taught by Daniel De Kay, RN.

In Appreciation of Our Donors, Sponsors & Funders

\$10,000 to \$15,000

Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
Ocean Protection Council/Coastal Quest
Estate of Josephine C. Marks

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Marcy & Jim Beck Clay and Glass Arts Foundation
Kristin Hite
Redwood Credit Union
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California Council for the Humanities
Russian River Recreation and Parks District
Save the Redwoods League

\$2,000 to \$4,999

Clare Dorfman
First 5 Sonoma County Community Foundation
Sonoma County
Clif Bar Family

Foundation
Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival
Gregory Fearon & Pat Kuta
PG&E Corporation Foundation
Terry & Joanne Dale

\$1,000 to \$1,999

The Campbell Foundation
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Deneen Pottery
Falcon Mike's Adventures
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Chef Patrick's California-French Cuisine
Oak Avenue Catering
Barefoot Wines & Bubbly
Moshin Vineyard
Korbel
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Rodney Strong Vineyards
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Bear Republic Brewing Co.
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Old World Winery
Karah Estate Vineyards
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New Members ~ 2nd Quarter

Osprey Circle

Art Carter
Heather Smith

Gray Whale

Patrick Laherty
Carol & Peter Lucic

Harbor Seal

Robert & Margaret Foulks
Michael Hammond
David Michael Lee
Wayne Lee
Pam Lellis
Helen Meistrich
Ragnar Naess
Christopher Reiger
Joseph Victor Sieger
Kate Williams

Otter Family

Linda B. Day
Jeffrey Dean
Ed Hasson

Peder Hegland
Sophie Imbuelten
Cynthia Kellogg
Stephan Krutzik

Brook Lane
Paul Lanier
Brian Martens
Margaret Medeiros
Jim & Janet Moore
Joan Pinkvoss
Fred Vedder
Sarah Villarreal
Mary & Jon Williams
Julie Zigoris

Individual Trillium

Carol Adair
Melanie Adcock
Marguerite Brennan
Iris Heusler
Justin Lindenberg
Eleanor Meyer
Jim Ratcliffe

Laura Rondet
Joel Savage

Owl Senior & Student

Glen Alpert
Joan Anderson
Patti & David Averbuck
Stephen Beck
Shayna Billings
Mary Bowers
Georgia Brown
Ron Burgholzer
Charlotte Chavez
Bernadette Cormier
Sharon Curry
Maribeth Dewilde
Greg Groeneveld
Jan A. Guidotti
John Haines
Ron Hemmerich
Nora Hild
Ken Horwege

Dawn Johnson-Huff
Susan Joice
Andrea Lu
Jeanne Marie Kelly
Cheryl Kite
Lana M. Koloboff
John Kornfeld
Cynthia Lovewell
Tom McBride
Patricia McConihe
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Kathleen O'Hearn
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Pamela Vale
Karen Van Epen
Mary Jo Yung

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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includes a copy of this quarterly newsletter by email or mail, a 20% discount on retail items, special events & community education seminars.

TO MAKE A VEHICLE DONATION CALL: (800) 320-0476

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

Michele Luna
(707) 869-9177 ext. 4#
michele@stewardscr.org

Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Membership Form

YES, I'd like to become a member!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- RENEWAL
- \$25 Owl Senior/Student
- \$35 Individual Trillium
- \$45 Otter Family
- \$100 Contributing Harbor Seal
- \$150 Bobcat Business
- \$250 Gray Whale Patron
- \$500+ Osprey Circle

Payment Type: Check (made payable to Stewards)

Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover acceptable)

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

Signature: _____

Bequests

Your Gift to the Future of State Park Preservation

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

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

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