## Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Annual Report 2018

As we look to the future of our California State Parks in the face of climatic, budgetary, and service hurdles, the protection of the cherished natural and cultural resources they encompass is more important than ever. The support of volunteers, members and donors of Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods (Stewards) continues to be vital in ensuring that we serve as an innovative force in providing education about, and safeguards for these treasures in Russian River area State Parks. Our board and staff are honored to continue to join with you in guiding and inspiring new generations of stewards to support the 20 plus volunteer programs at Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve (SNR), Austin Creek State Recreation Area (SRA) and Sonoma Coast State Park.

I am pleased to report that 2018 was another year of significant accomplishment for Stewards in responding to challenges as well as moving forward to put opportunities into practice. The development of our new co-management agreement with State Parks for Armstrong Redwoods SNR and Austin Creek SRA and a new 3-year strategic partnership plan for all our parks serve as two of the cornerstones of these efforts. These documents ensure shared attention to park priorities going forward. The co-management plan will keep more revenues local, and our joint strategic partnership plan identifies specific outcomes and responsibilities related to preservation, restoration, stewardship, education, operations and maintenance of parklands, watersheds and facilities.

As our region recovered from the destructive fires of 2017, Stewards provided program support to bring students from affected communities to the solace of their parks. We also received two grants to reduce fuel loads in Austin Creek SRA, with funding from the California State Parks Foundation and the Sonoma County Vintners Foundation to transform densely forested areas to a more open forest condition. We look forward to engaging the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corp on projects in the coming year to continue to reduce hazardous vegetation and downed trees, clear trails and road edges.

Our Mission is to Promote, Restore and Protect Your State Parks

1985 to 2018 ~ Response & Responsibility

Overnight camping programs are empowering children from diverse backgrounds to experience nature in new ways, and 2018 funding from the California State Parks Foundation is supporting the addition of two new summertime overnight programs for teens. To ensure maximum participation, Stewards provides tents, sleeping bags, an outdoor kitchen and naturalists to guide participants through activities, including camping basics, hikes to the coast, intertidal explorations, kayaking, and citizen science projects.

With Pond Farm Pottery named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2014, Stewards is moving forward in partnership with State Parks to implement vibrant programs that honor Marguerite Wildenhain's legacy and introduce new visitors to the history and workings of this special place, located in Austin Creek SRA. 2018 highlights included a spring exhibit at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, the initiation of monthly docent-led tours of Pond Farm, and planning for an Artist in Residence Program to begin in early 2019.

Leveraging Stewards' existing marine education and outreach programs, Stewards is expanding opportunities for park visitors, including youth, to understand and learn about the importance of the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) along the Sonoma Coast. In our leadership role with the Sonoma MPA Collaborative, Stewards is working with our partners to distribute the four video segments we produced to schools, recreational organizations and the commercial fishing industry, including our final video, focused on Tribal Traditions, finished in 2018.

We also welcomed the opportunity to play a role in providing the first lifeguard tower on the Sonoma Coast at Goat Rock State Beach in 2018, in concert with The Russian River Watershed Protection Committee, Sonoma County Water Agency, and California State Parks.

Thank you for all that you do to support Stewards' work. The legacy we leave to our children, including equipping them to actively engage in stewardship, is the linchpin in ensuring that resource protection of our State Parks is front and center in policy and practice in the years to come.

In Stewardship,

Michele Suna

Michele Luna, Executive Director

# Fresh Faces of the Future

## From the Forest

"We moved into the forest...What I saw took my breath away....I will never forget a forest like that one. ~Student from Youth Environmental Artivist Summit, 2016

## to the Sea

"The docents' knowledge and willingness to engage with the kids is fantastic. I had one docent take a student back into the tide pools to explore further because the student wanted to keep looking. I appreciate that level of interaction with the kids. I also like that the docent's'"trained eyes" to spot animals and plants that we would all (including the teachers) miss. ~ Tanya Faustino, Teacher

## Serving 8,356 Youth

All Armstrong Redwoods Reservations	5,302
Docent-led Programs	2,153
All Marine Science/Tidepool Reservations	2,690
Docent -led Programs	988
Watershed Programs	134
Summer Day Camp/Overnight Programs	24
Citizen Science/Stewardship Experiences	82
Steward Ship School Visits	230



"They wanted us to see how amazing the world is and to help save Mother Nature. " ~5th grade Student, Gravenstein Elementary

### Contact with 111,200 Park Visitors

Whale Watch/Seal Watch	10,250
Armstrong Redwoods Visitor Center	71,360
Jenner Visitor Center	16,475
Adult Hikes/Tours/Lectures/Wellness Walks	1,380
Armstrong/Sonoma Coast Roving Docents	8,025
Public Assistance Volunteers	325
Steward Ship at Events	3,385



24 California Naturalists trained in 2018

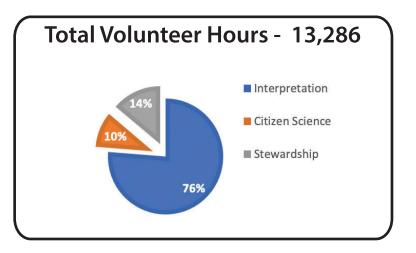
2018 Volunteer hours for Interpretation - 10,063

## Citizen Scientists - 1,179 hours

Pinniped Monitoring	108
Seabird Monitoring	379
Beach Watch/Marine Debris	688

## Parklands Stewards - 2,044 hours

Armstrong/Austin Creek Trail Crew	1,120
Sonoma Coast/Willow Creek Trail Crews	829
Earth Day Restoration and Cleanup	95







"Spent part of the time looking at the Pelagic Cormorants on their precarious nests and part of the time watching the Western Gulls with their fuzzy chicks. At one point folks were standing in line to see them!" ~ Tammy Miller, Citizen Scientist

Volunteers are the Heart and Soul of our work!

## Operating Your Parks

2017	2018
791,863	800,813
249,104	289,585
9,423	9,711
	791,863 249,104

Since 2012, Stewards has been operating Austin Creek SRA and handling fee collection and Visitor Services at Armstrong Redwoods SNR. We are proud of our ability to serve the visiting public with a high level of customer service.



Visitation at Armstrong Redwoods SNR increases annually and Stewards is working with State Parks and our local tourism community to ensure the preservation of this magnificent old growth redwood forest into the future.

Stewards and California State Parks are entering into a new co-management agreement for both parks for the next five years. A critical initiative is focusing on fuel reduction in order to protect our parklands from the devastation that can be caused by wildland fires.

# Offering Eirst-time Park Experiences

With an increasing body of research documenting the benefits of health and well-being of time spent outdoors, Stewards continues to work closely with schools to bring pre-K-12 students out to our parks and build the foundation for their stewardship of the natural world. In addition to addressing the current program demand, we are focusing much of our outreach on those Sonoma County schools where student visits to our parks may be their first, and where our transportation scholarships are often key to making these trips possible.

In my 19 years of teaching this was one of the best field trips ever. The docents made it safe and a very wonderful learning opportunity. One student said, "This is better than a vacation." We couldn't have done it without the bus scholarship. Also, not being charged a fee made it possible to go. It was a magical day and everyone loved it. ~ Carrie Boyce, Teacher, Bellevue Elementary

## Collaborating Environmental Partnerships

Stewards is honored to be an active participant in the efforts of these agencies and nonprofit organizations working with us to promote, restore and protect the natural and cultural resources in our State Parks.



Stewards is a founding member of the Sonoma MPA Collaborative, comprised of 30 agencies including scientific institutions, environmental NGOs, tribal governments, and agencies committed to raising awareness of Marine Protected Areas amongst coastal residents and visitors. We have produced 4 videos that highlight different aspects of working, playing, fishing and Kashia tribal traditions in the Sonoma Coast MPAs.



The goal of the Sonoma Environmental Education Collaborative (SEEC) is to increase environmental literacy in Sonoma County. SEEC identifies and addresses regional needs for environmental education, identifies gaps in existing resources and considers how existing resources can be leveraged to achieve common goals.



In 2007, Stewards launched the Pinniped Monitoring Program in partnership with the Sonoma Water . Citizen Scientists collect and provide data used by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to ensure that pinnipeds are safeguarded under the Marine Mammal Protection Act at the mouth of the Russian River.



Now that the National Marine Sanctuary System has been expanded into Sonoma Coast waters, Stewards is working closely with the Greater Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries to expand outreach and collaborate on programs and events that serve the general public and schools, include Beach Watch.



A partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, the California Coastal National Monument and the Seabird Protection Network has supported Stewards in creating a new Sonoma County Chapter of the Seabird Protection Network including Sea Ranch as well as three monitoring locations on the Sonoma Coast. Citizen Scientists collect data during the breeding and non-breeding seasons and report disturbances to seabirds to the Seabird Protection Network.

## Pond Farm Pottery The Legacy of Marguerite Wildenhain

#### **Recent Accomplishments**

- Stabilized the historic barn and Marguerite Wildenhain's house in Austin Creek State Recreation Area.
- Developed a docent training manual and monthly tour program at Pond Farm.
- Secured funding and implemented anADA renovation of the Pond Farm Guest House.
- Developed an Artist-in-Residence Program starting in 2019.
- Supported a Pond Farm Student Reunion in March 2018.
- Executed a successful exhibit at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts that included the work of Marguerite Wildenhain and her students.
- Support for National Landmark status for Pond Farm Historic District.
- Support Annual Sunset Dinner, a benefit for Pond Farm.

#### PARTNERSHIPS

California State Parks • Sebastopol Center for the Arts Forrest L. Merrill • Hybrid Design • M-4 Specialties • Sonoma County Museum Clay and Glass Arts Foundation

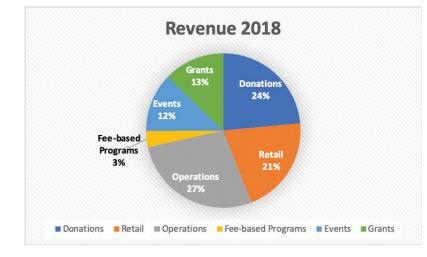


Sebastopol Center of the Arts Exhibit - 2018

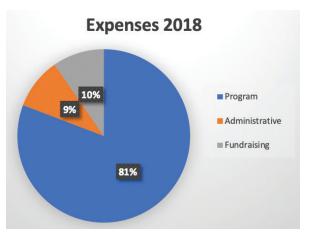


Pond Farm Student Reunion May 2018

# Our Finances - Year-end 2018







#### Assets

Cash	\$119,219
Grants Receivable	\$2,215
Other Assets	\$16,844
Inventory	\$118,122

**Total Assets** 

\$256,400

#### **Liabilities & Fund Balances**

Liabilities	\$75,860
Unrestricted Funds	\$40,806
Board Designated	\$98,835
Temporarily Restricted	\$22,745
Permanently Restricted	\$18,154

#### Total Liabilities & Funds \$256,400

## **Events**

Armstrong/Austin Creek Run Gourmet Walk in the Woods Poetry in the Redwoods Family Day in Your State Park Sunset Dinner Old Grove Festival Volunteer Celebration Community/Donor Events

"The ambiance of the Old Grove Festival is spectacular, a redwood cathedral that provides lovely acoustics." ~Attendee









## With Gratitude to our 2018 Donors

#### \$25,000

California State Parks Foundation

#### \$10,000 to \$17,000

Coastal Commission/Whale Tail County of Sonoma Don & Jacque Mielke Greg Fearon Resources Legacy Fund Sonoma County Vintners Foundation

#### \$5,000 to \$9,000

Clay and Glass Arts Foundation County of Sonoma Kristin Hite Marcy & Jim Beck Neil and Amelia McDaniel Charitable Trust PG&E Corporation Foundation Russian River Recreation and Parks Distr. Save The Redwoods League Sonoma County Water Agency

#### \$1,000 to \$3,000

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#### \$255 to \$300

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**In-Kind Donor** \$100,000 plus Hybrid Design

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Dianne Neumán

Douglas Devivo

E&J Gallo Winerv Emiv Herb Enjoy Day Spa & Salon Ferrári-Cárano Vineyards ۶, Winery Foabelt Brewing Company Frank Philipps Gills Rock Stoneware Glen Blackley Gregory Fearon Guerneville 5 & 10 Hafner Vinevard Higher Ground Organic Espresso Highland Dell Lodge / Hotel-Bar-Rstrnt Jacuzzi Family Vineyards Cellars James Dahl John Steven Kiome Karah Estate Vineyard Korbel Champagne Cellars Lagunitas Brewing Co Lynn Zimmer M4 Specialties Main Street Station Michael Murphy Moshin Vineyards Mr. Trombly's Tea Oak Avenue Catering Old World Winery Patricia Bird Peterson Winerv Pig Alley Ragnar Naess Robert Finn **Robert Janover** Rodney Strong Vineyards Russian River Pub Russian River Vinevards Scandia Screamin' Mimi's Seaside Metal Oyster Bar Second Wind Sue Thallaug Surrey Resort & Gym Suzie Rose The Farmhand Riverfront Deli The Village Inn Twist Eatery Viansa Sonoma Winery Village Bakery Wellington Cellars West Sonoma Inn & Spa West Sonoma Style Bar Wild Hog Vinevard Worldly Goods



# Our Stewards/State Park Team - 2018

(Back Row, Left to Right)

Dale Wannen, Board • Terry Bertels, District Superintendent • Nicholas Szecsey, Retail Coordinator • Erin Harer, Admin. Assistant Scott Lawyer, Field Operations Manager • Bill Bambrick, Board • Gregory Fearon, Board Treasurer, Kat Rawhouser, Volunteer. Programs Mgr. (Second Row, Left to Right)

Annie Cresswell, Admin. Director • Michele Luna, Executive Director • Donna Roper, Board President • Mike Lair, Sector Superintendent Jeff Edmonds, Board • Kathi Moore, Board Secretary • Hollis Bewley, Board Vice-President (Front Row, Left to Right) : Brittany Kelly, Board • Rachel Hallaway, Field Operations Assistant • Marcy Beck, Board

Missing: Carlos Amador, Service Aide, Rianna Favaloro, Administrative Assistant (hired 2019)

#### Address Correction Requested

#### Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

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