Fort Ross and Salt Point parks have benefited greatly from many dedicated volunteers and staff who have given generously to these parks. Board of directors from FRIA and FRC have fundraised, organized events, overseen volunteers, spearheaded interpretation and restoration projects, and offered substantial support to California State Parks across many decades.

These digitized newsletters capture the activities over the following historic periods:

- Fort Ross Interpretive Association (FRIA): 1976 - 2012
- Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC is the same legal entity as FRIA but the organization changed its name): 2012 - present

Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) asks that you acknowledge FRC as the source of the content; if you use material from FRC online, we request that you link directly to the URL provided. If you use the content offline, we ask that you credit the source as follows: “Courtesy of Fort Ross Conservancy, www.fortross.org.”
Fort Ross Interpretive Association
Summer Newsletter - 1985

VISITORS CENTER DEDICATION

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1986, 1:00 P.M.
FORT ROSS

June 17 ---- Indian Day
July 4 -----Russian Services
August 10 ---- Living History Day
September 14 ---- Ranch Day

Above are five good reasons to include a visit to Fort Ross in your summer plans. After the Guest House will open, the Visitors Center is soon to be a reality. The building, nearly complete, moving in will begin around July 1. Interpretive exhibits are waiting to transport from Sacramento to Fort Ross. Bookstore materials are being studied, and how to display its books, postcards, posters, etc., in the new place. The recently purchased copying machine is waiting for its final placement in the Center. It is a challenge for Park staff and volunteers to get it all together under one roof for the opening. The Opening Ceremonies will be signaled by the firing of a cannon followed by speakers from William P. Nott who hopes to come from Washington, D.C., and spokesmen by representatives of government officials and faithful spectators. The Dedication Committee is planning to include music and dance performances in the celebration.

RUSSIAN SERVICES - July 4
Father Seraphim Dietsch of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Green Street, San Francisco, has confirmed that services are to be held at the Fort Church by the diocesan clergy on July 4, an annual tradition. A potlucky picnic will follow.

INDIAN DAY - June 22
Native American dancing, foods, basket weaving and other crafts will be presented at this annual event. 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Candy Hartley is the coordinator again this year and welcomes all to attend. The bark of the Native American basket weavers will be there and it is always fascinating to see their work and hear about basket weaving. A collection of raw materials to the beautiful fine products. A raffle basket will be raffled that day. Tickets available at Fort Ross, $1.00 or $4.00 each.

LIVING HISTORY DAY - August 10
You can return in time to 1866 and experience the reconstructed life of the era when the Russians were in residence. Russian militia will drill with muskets, old time crafts of carpentry and blacksmithing will be demonstrated. Food preparation will be under way;udson Bay traders will be here for trading; and perhaps the Mexican Presidio Company will arrive on the last boat.

This year Living History Day is being organized from the regional office so the need for volunteers is greater than ever.

The line-up training day for volunteers is Saturday, June 29, at the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church.
95 Mountain View Ave., Santa Rosa, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for details: Bob Anderson, 707-347-3714, or Shirley Meneer, 707-347-3225.

RANCH DAY — Sept. 14
This is a gathering open to all for a picnic, music, games and crafts reflecting an earlier American period. Plans are still in the making so call Fort Ross, 707-347-3225, for more details closer to the date.

NEW FACES
Alan O'Brien arrived May 1 as the new ranger and he is delighted to be back in his native northern California. He majored in Environmental Studies at Santa Barbara, followed by Park service at three Southern California locations. He has an interest in California History; one of his favorite pastimes is historical research and he has completed Department training dealing with artifacts. With his good humor he will be a great asset to the Park.

Joe Smith is new to Parks and to Fort Ross. He brings with him a knowledge of history as that is one of the subjects he formerly taught in North County. When not Westernizing events that is where he will be. Hopefully he will have lots of the fun and a myriad of stories.

Trina Langley will be taking over as Coordinator for the Gift and Book Store on July 1. She moved to the Coast almost a year ago and has been active with the Fort Ross School Parents group, a natural for a mother of two. In the past, Trina has been the assistant manager of a retail store so she has a good grounding in retail operations, a big asset for FRRK.

WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU!

Fort Ross to be on Evening Magazine
A Channel 9 TV crew with Rita Chappell was recently at the Fort videotaping interior and exterior scenes for an Evening Magazine segment on the North Coast. John McHorse was on hand to give historical background and Rita was delighted. As we all always are, with his stories and a song or two. "Rising	Sun" is sometime in late July. Keep tuned.

Trees and Gardens
Four of the most popular varieties of trees from the old orchard are not available. They are Gravenstein (122), an unidentified reddish apple (13), a Fall rippen (112) and a pear (125). They are in five gallon containers and can be purchased at the new Fort Ross Vegetable Stand. The old orchard was replanted with 36 new trees of the Pacific, with the exception of the Gravenstein. Those for sale are extras or trees brought in from different locations.

John Smith reported on the Russian Orchard at the June joint meeting with the Advisory committee. Once again this spring, dear got into the orchard for some good meals, our trees. Apparently the high wet grass along the lower electric fence. Mowing is the solution.

The Cal Ranch Garden is getting needed help. The receipt of a small anonymous gift for the Garden Fund in memory of Viva L. Towlin has led to hiring a professional landscape architect, Renee Feliciano of Santa Rosa. With the help of prior hall staff, Cindy Winkel, Ed Redig and others, the former garden is being restored. She is researching the garden design and plantings in order to create a master plan. The years 1915-1920 have been selected as representative dates.

The Garden of Shells created by the ELF children lies near the northern trail to the Fort and may puzzle those people unfamiliar with the ELF program. There are a few squash plants and seeds among the
From Bob Robie to our volunteers

At the May 14 District Superintendent Meeting held in Sacramento, many keynote speakers shared their knowledge and expertise with the field superintendents. The presentation made by Resources Secretary Gordon F. Van Vleck was inspiring and still echoes in my ears. I would like to share part of the Secretary's speech with our readers.

Cooperating, volunteers, decent, and natural history associations provide invaluable service to the state parks system and the people of California.

In 1983, 5,600 volunteers donated 108,000 hours to state parks. Today, just a little over one year later, the number of volunteers has doubled. Some may give only a few hours each month, while others volunteer several hours nearly every day. Last year volunteers gave more than 390,000 hours to help visitors gain a better understanding of the state parks system.

In addition to giving their time, these volunteers also raise money that directly benefits your parks. By selling interpretive and educational materials, they have raised dollars needed for their projects, and the list of their accomplishments is quite impressive.

Volunteers are definitely an asset to the state park system. Many of them are retired professionals, government employees, and business people. They are more than willing to offer their services. Take care of them and they will take care of you.

Although the Fort Ross Interpretive Association was not specifically mentioned in the examples, they are included in context of the message showing gratitude to all volunteers.

Thank you for your dedication.

Ed von der Porten, first FRIA Chairman

Congratulations on your new appointment to director of the museum on Treasure Island.

Betty Muson, who does a marvelous job as our membership chairman, reports our current membership at 146. She also would like to remind some long-term members that they have forgotten to send in their 1985 dues -- $3 for an individual, $5 for a family.

Princess Helena on the Move

There are reports that the portrait of Princess Helena, presently stored with other paintings, keeps moving about. She has been found in different places by staff and volunteers in the attic atop the tower. Is she ready to move? Or, as a ranger suggested, "she just doesn't like to be in the middle of the pack."

P. Hildeman, Editor