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.”
VISITORS CENTER DEDICATION
SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1985, 1:00 P.M.
FORT ROSS

June 12 ------ 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 Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, the Visitors Center is soon to be a reality. The building is nearly complete, moving in will begin around July 1. Interpretive facilities to display transport from Sacramento to Fort Ross, book stores, a gift shop and how to display its books, postcards, posters, etc., in the new venue. The recently purchased copying machine is waiting for its final placement in the Center. It is a challenge for Park staff and volunteers to put 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 Pont Nott who hopes to come from Washington, D.C., and speeches by representatives of government officials and faithful interpreter. The Dedication Committee is planning to include music and dance performances in the celebration.

RUSSIAN SERVICES - July 4
Father Seraphim Disetti of Holy Trinity Cathedral, 1500 Green Street, San Francisco, has confirmed that services are to be held at the Fort Ross with the diocesan clergy on July 4, an annual tradition. A potluck 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 Stewart is the coordinator again this year and welcomes all to attend. The part of the Native American basket weavers will be there and it is always fascinating to see their work and hear about basket making. From the collection of raw materials to the beautiful final product, 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 1836 and experience the recreated life of the era when the Russians were in residence. Russian ladies will grill with muskets; old time crafts of carpentry and blacksmithing will be demonstrated; food preparation will be under way; Hudson Bay Trappers will be here for trading; and perhaps the Mexican Presidio Company will arrive on horseback.

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

The last training day for volunteers is Saturday, June 29, at the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church.
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 Port Ross, 707-447-1288, for more details closer to the date.

NEW FACES
Alan DelRose 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 earlier duties had historical elements and he has completed Department training dealing with artifacts. With his good humor he will be a great asset to the Fort.

Joe Scott is new to Parks and to Pt. Ross. He brings with him a knowledge of history, as that is one of the subjects he formerly taught in Marin County. When the Western Center opens, that is where he will be.

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 Pt. 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 ERM.

WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU!

Fort Ross to be on Evening Magazine
A Channel 5-TV crew with Rita Chappin was recently at the Port videotaping interior and exterior scenes for an Evening Magazine segment on the North Coast. John Mckenzie was on hand to give historical background and Rita was delighted, as she always are, with his stories and a song as well. Taping date 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 (#22), an unidentified reddish apple (#13), a Fuji apple (#12) and a pear (#251). They are in five gallon containers and are ready for planting. The new Port Ross Proprietor is replanting the orchard. Those for sale are extras or sick trees, or ones of the wrong variety. 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 shoots out the solar electric fence. Haying 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 Vivian M. Towlin has led to hiring a prominent landscape architect, Renee Feliciano of Santa Rosa. Also the staff of Gardener Staff, Cindy Winkler, Ed Redig and John Smith are working closely together. She is researching the garden design and planting in order to create a master plan. The years 1915-1920 have been selected as representative dates.

The Garden of Scarecrows created by the ELP children lies near the northern trail to the fort and may puzzle those people unfamiliar with the ELP Program. There are a few squash plants and weeds among the
scarescows behind the fence. As a different group of children arrives each week at the Fort for an overnight learning experience, these little visitors get only intermittent attention. Scaredcows are quick to make and fun to do. The results have a special charm.

From Bob Robles to our Volunteers

At the May 14 District Superintendent's Meeting held in Sacramento, many keynote speakers shared their knowledge and expertise with the field superintendents. The presentation made by Resource Secretary Gordon T. 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, 5,000 volunteers donated 100,000 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 300,000 hours to help visitors gain a better understanding of their state park 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 volunteers people. They are more than willing to offer their services.

Take care of them and they will take care of you.

Although the Fort Roats 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 Musson, who does a marvelous job as our membership chairman, reported our current membership at 126. She also would like to remind some long-term members that they have forgotten to send in their 1985 dues -- $3 for an individual, $8 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 and storage. Is she ready to move? Or, as a ranger suggested, "she just doesn't like to be in the middle of the park."