Dear friends,

FRC is busily creating events for our annual calendar and scheduling high school students for our burgeoning Marine Ecology Program. The year is off to a great start.

Fort Ross is open
Fri-Sat-Sun-Mon
10am-4:30pm
The Call House Museum and Garden is open first weekend of each month from 1 to 4 PM. Please visit our website for more information on the park hours.

Fort Ross Conservancy
501c3 / California Cooperating Association
www.fortross.org
707-847-3437
info@fortross.org
Tours in English & Russian
Information on special events
Visitor Center and sales

California State Parks
Interpreters at Fort Ross
Fort Ross State Historic Park
www.fortrossstatepark.org
ELP, ELDAP, & School Groups
Junior Ranger & Boy Scout programs
Talks at the fort compound
707-847-4777

Thanks go to all of you who renewed your membership and sent in much-needed end-of-year donations to FRC. We use these funds to provide educational programs, underwrite State Parks interpreters, and continue our work of park stewardship at Fort Ross and Salt Point. Our hardcopy members' only newsletter will be mailed via USPS next week – another perk for being a card-carrying FRC supporter!

We hope you'll be visiting soon.

Sincerely,

Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy
CEO
FRC Welcomes Sarah King
Our New CSP/FRC Volunteer Coordinator

I grew up in the mountains of southwestern Virginia, and I went to the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg for my B.S. in Environmental Science and Geology. My naturalist’s passion has been fulfilled throughout varying park ranger positions at Haleakala National Park, Shenandoah National Park, Big Bend National Park, and Point Reyes National Seashore. Now I am thrilled to be at Fort Ross State Historic Park and work with the community of volunteers here, helping to build an even stronger volunteer base for all of our invaluable programs. From the first moment that I stepped into the fort compound, I was compelled by the unique history here, the peaceful atmosphere, and the passion of all who spend time here. I can tell that this is a special place.

I look forward to meeting you at Fort Ross the next time you’re here!

Cheers,

Sarah King
Volunteer Coordinator & Park Interpretive Specialist
California State Parks

Honoring John Sperry
Please join us for the dedication of a park bench for our dear friend and mentor

John Sperry

Sunday, May 22nd 2016
11:00am - 12:30pm
Fort Ross State Historic Park
on the bluffs overlooking Sandy Cove
A windmill turning in his honor follows at 1pm

Questions? Please Email Susan Rudy at susan@stillwatercove.net.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12th, 1:30pm:
THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE FARALLON ISLANDS:
From Early Formation to Present Day

Please join National Wildlife Refuge System Ranger Jose Garcia in a presentation and discussion about the Farallons past and its future, including photos of the Russian-era structures still visible on the island. Fort Ross State Historic Park Visitor Center.

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March 26th
Park Champions at Salt Point State Park
With big thanks to California State Parks Foundation we are ready to launch another productive year of Park Champions at Fort Ross and Salt Point. Help prepare Woodside campground for its April opening by clearing leaf & tree debris from sites & road, and by checking/repairing tables, storage lockers, fire rings. Ages 12+ welcome w/ legal guardian. Free group-setting camping available on March 25th and 26th for participants; no RV or car camping. We provide lunch. Sign up at www.calparks.org/help/park-champions/ or email questions to parkchampionstacy@gmail.com

April 10th, 11am:
Direct Fish Printing (Gyotaku) Workshop

Join Fort Ross Conservancy and instructor Christopher Dewees to learn the Japanese art form of Direct Fish Printing or Gyotaku, first practiced in the mid-1800s in Japan to celebrate the fish caught for a samurai lord's feast. Special event fees apply: $55 full day including lunch, or $45 without lunch. Advance event fees apply at Eventbrite; if purchased online, California State Parks $8 per car entrance fee is waived. For more info, please contact Special Events Manager Sondra Hunter at sondrah@fortross.org or at 707.847.3437.

April 23rd
Volunteer Open House and Orientation

Join Sarah King for a Volunteer Open House and Orientation at Fort Ross. We'll bring together new recruits, current volunteers, and Fort Ross and Salt Point state park staff and Conservancy staff. The goal is to welcome new volunteers to the park and give them an idea of what volunteer programs they can participate in, provide a social gathering for current volunteers to meet new volunteers, and invite state park and Conservancy staff to connect with our volunteers. For more information please contact Sarah King at Sarah.King@parks.ca.gov.
Please check our **Events** web page for a full list of 2016 Events.

Questions? Email [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org)

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact (707) 847-3437.

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**Welcome, New FRC Board of Directors!!**

At our first board meeting of the year the FRC board elected new officers:

Tim Kelly, President  
Tom Wright, Vice President  
Michael Dewees, Treasurer  
Sarah Stierch, Secretary

Board members are:  
Stacy Beard  
Sandy Curtis  
Reno Franklin  
Konstantin Kudryavtsev  
Jan Phelps  
Sarah Sweedler

We look forward to sharing our upcoming plans with you.  
If you're an active FRC member please join us at our Annual Meeting on  
**April 9th at 12:30 pm.**

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**Sylvia Murphy Update**

Sylvia, our gregarious and knowledgeable FRC Bookshop staff member, was
in a head-on car crash, and she is in critical condition with a very long recovery ahead of her. Please keep her in your thoughts. If you would like to send a card, please send to: Sylvia Murphy c/o Heidi Horvitz 30355 Seaview Rd. Cazadero, CA 95421 and they will be delivered to her. Please no visitors, flowers or gifts at this time as she is still in ICU. If you want to contribute towards her recovery go to GoFundMe.com/sylviafund where you can donate online.