Dear friends,

Good news comes in threes: Our event calendar is bursting with possibilities, the landscape is a beautiful riot of colorful wildflowers popping up among the vivid green coastal grasslands (thank you Rain!), and, as of April 1st it's high season -- Fort Ross is open SEVEN DAYS A WEEK and Reef and Woodside campgrounds are now open.

It is a wonderful time to visit. Hope to see you at Fort Ross and Salt Point!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

April 9th, 1:30pm:
MUSIC & MARINE ECOLOGY

Join us in supporting Fort Ross Conservancy's Marine Ecology Program with an afternoon of wine, hors d'oeuvres and music brought to you by the women of Kitka and Russian House Kedry!

Kitka is an American women's vocal arts ensemble inspired by traditional songs and vocal techniques from Eastern Europe. Dedicated to developing new audiences for music rooted in Balkan, Slavic, and Caucasian women's
vocal traditions, Kitka also strives to expand the boundaries of folk song as a living and evolving expressive art form. Russian House Kedry generously brings Fort Ross to life during our festivals each season with interactive celebrations including traditional Russian folk songs, dances, rituals, games, crafts and baking. Download our flyer here.

Eventbrite ticket of $30 includes park entrance fees, coffee and tea service and a wonderful selection of locally made hors d'oeuvres. Wine and champagne will be available for an additional donation to the Marine Ecology Program. Buy your tickets today and help us keep this wonderful Marine Ecology Program alive for future youth! Tickets also available the day of event at the Visitor Center. Children under 12 are FREE!

For more info, contact Special Events & Marine Ecology Program Manager Sondra Hunter at sondrah@fortross.org or (707) 847-3437.

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**April 9th, 12:00pm**

**SPRING CELEBRATION**

Russian House Kedry Spring Celebration - Russian folk traditions, Pysanky egg painting, and crafts for kids. Call (707) 847-4777 for more information.

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**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 tickets can be purchased 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 22nd, 10am
Earth Day Event at Salt Point State Park

Weed Warriors!

We will be pulling invasive Fireweed from the grasslands surrounding the Salt Point Trail. Meet at the Gerstle Cove parking area for the Salt Point Trail. Take out an invasive, non-native plant and enjoy the coastal beauty of the Salt Point Trail on Earth Day!

Wear long pants, hiking boots, and be prepared for a 3 mile round-trip walk. Bring water and a bag lunch.

Please RSVP if you plan to attend: sarah.king@parks.ca.gov or (707) 847-3286.

April 23rd, 10am
Volunteer Open House & Orientation for Fort Ross State Historic Park and Salt Point State Park

Join us to learn about the diverse volunteer opportunities available at Salt Point State Park and Fort Ross State Historic Park! The event will include informative presentations from experienced docents and park staff about volunteer programs, including:

* Historic Orchard Maintenance
* Ranch-era Call House Docents
* Ranch-era Call Garden Maintenance
* Windmill Maintenance and Docents
* Marine Mammal Monitoring
* Costumed Interpretation
* Salt Point Visitor Center Docents
* Special Event Volunteers

You will have an opportunity to sign up for volunteer programs that match your interests. Please bring a bag lunch. There will be some light refreshments provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP: sarah.king@parks.ca.gov or (707) 847-3286. We look forward to seeing you!

Please check our Events web page for a full list of 2016 Events.
Questions? Email info@fortross.org

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

Thank you Susan Rudy and Renova Fort Ross Foundation

Our "Living History" orchard, on the hill above Fort Ross, continues to receive good care and bear fruit thanks to our dedicated orchard volunteers, heartfelt and generous support from Renova Fort Ross Foundation and tireless efforts from Fort Ross Conservancy advisor and lead volunteer extraordinaire Susan Rudy. Congratulations, Susy!

Click here to see The Press Democrat article on the occasion.

Barbara Black Memorial Bench

Thanks to several generous donations, we were able to purchase a bench for the Call Garden in memory of Barbara Black, the Ranch era descendant and "Grand Dame of the Ridge." To read more about this remarkable woman, see Lynn Rudy's beautiful memorial in our last newsletter.

Special thanks to Lynn Rudy, John Gittings, Cathryn Maloney and Diane Feddershon who helped assemble and place the bench in Call Garden.
Photos by FRC, Paul C. Miller, Tomas Pacha and Sarah Stierch