

Fort Ross & Salt Point Parks News



February 2015

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Fort Ross is open
Friday - Monday
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, ELDP, & School Groups
Junior Ranger & Boy Scout
programs
Talks at the fort compound
707-847-4777

Recommended Websites
California State Parks Foundation
Sonoma Birding
Wikipedia on Fort Ross
California State Parks

Dear friends of Fort Ross and Salt Point,

We are already a few months into the new year, and Team FRC dedicates 2015 to the incredible natural history at our parks. The year started out with some dramatic Pacific coast "[king tides](#)" that gave us a brief glimpse of our complex and beautiful intertidal zone. Such gorgeous, other-worldly colors! See photographs on [Fort Ross Conservancy's Facebook page](#). Continuing that theme, our event calendar also includes a workshop on medicinal and edible plants (scheduled for this weekend!), a field lecture on identifying seaweeds, and a walk and talk with [Save the Redwoods League](#) to explore our local redwoods. (Save the Redwoods League is responsible for protecting more than 2,100 acres at Fort Ross by helping the State of California acquire the lands up slope from the historic compound in the 1970s. Thank you STRL!)



It's important to create programming that encourages young people to spend time outdoors, and we're especially excited about our new [Marine Ecology Program](#) that connects the natural and cultural history of our park by teaching ecology through marine mammal identification and census work. Please help spread the word by sharing this inspiring [video created by our first-ever graduates](#). We've recently been awarded a grant from the California Coastal Commission, in addition to generous donations from private donors and the Renova Fort Ross Foundation, to help us grow this program. FRC offers scholarships to ensure that under-served students also get the opportunity to enjoy this hands-on outdoors-based science program. Call us with questions and ideas.

I'd like to encourage you to mark your calendars for our May 16th Alaska Native Day, described [below](#) in greater detail. It's a pleasure to welcome this community back to Fort Ross and witness them teaching their arts and crafts on the land they once shared with the Native Kashia and Russian communities. We have performers traveling from Alaska and craftspeople demonstrating how to build a traditional iqyan (large open kayak/baidara), to name but a few highlights of the day. Please plan on joining us.

Lastly, I want to congratulate the orchard volunteers who have been working steadily on revitalizing the historic orchard. FRC's recent [hardcopy newsletter](#) describes this multi-year project in detail and includes a great map identifying the varieties of both Russian and Ranch era trees. If you haven't enjoyed the Fort Ross orchard lately, I highly recommend you stop by for a visit.

Wishing an early spring to our friends in Russia, and a wet spring to our neighbors here in the Pacific Northwest,

With warm regards,

Register or Update Your Email Address

Contact Us

Fort Ross Conservancy
Fort Ross State Historic Park
19005 Coast Highway One
Jenner, CA 95450

Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy President & CEO
sarahl@fortross.org

info@fortross.org
707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website

Edible & Medicinal Plants of Sonoma County Sunday, March 1st, 10am - 4pm (scheduled for this weekend)



Join us this Sunday as we explore the trails of Fort Ross State Historic Park with Tellur Fenner, clinical herbalist/educator and owner of [Blue Wind Botanical Medicine Clinic and Education Center](#), while we learn about the many amazing and useful plants which grow here. The tickets for this event are available at [Eventbrite](#).

During this workshop we will explore both the common and lesser known native/naturalized plants found growing throughout the region, with a focus on historical as well as modern use. Please note that harvesting on State Park property is not allowed. For more information, please contact Fort Ross Conservancy info@fortross.org (707) 847-3437.

Special event fee is \$45/person, plus California State Parks fee of \$8/car at the kiosk. Please carpool! California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact (707) 847-3437.



Guided Hikes at Salt Point State Park Led by Susanna Barlow



Thursday, March 5, 2015, 11am
Meet at Fisk Mill Cove parking lot, the most northern parking area, near Sentinel Rock. Spectacular ocean views, spring wildflowers, coastal geology. Wear sturdy hiking boots, bring a bag lunch, water, and binoculars. This hike may go long, plan for at least 2 hours, there is a lot to see, and March is the month to revel in this beautiful spot. Park day use fees apply.

Saturday, March 14, 2015, 10am
Meet at Kruse Ranch Road, rhododendron loop parking, we will hike the Phillip's Gulch, Chinese Gulch loop trails. Last month we saw the first spotted coral root orchids. This is a fabulous hike when it is gusty on the coast, quiet and secluded, complete with ferns, dells and woodsy wildflowers. Hike goes for 2 hours.



Sunday, March 15, 2015, 8am

Meet at Stump Beach parking lot. These early morning hikes have the most beautiful slanting light, it is worth rousing yourself out of bed. Pelagic cormorants are nesting on the far cliffs, and the marine terraces are bright with color. Wildflowers abound. Hike ends by 9:45 in time for the Fort Ross School community market.

Questions? Call FRC's Susanna Barlow at 707-847-3437 or Email susannab@fortross.org

FRC Marine Mammal Monitoring News



Harbor Seal Surveys

Assist us with our citizen scientist effort monitoring the harbor seals along our coast, now usually twice a month, through July. After meeting at the Fort Ross State Historic Park Visitor Center, our surveys begin roadside at Highway One Mile Marker 33.52, just north of the Fort Ross State Historic Park entrance. These almost

two mile low-tide shoreline surveys, ending at Fort Ross Cove, take about two hours' time.

Harbor Seal Surveys are scheduled on the following Saturdays:

Feb. 28, 1:30pm; Mar. 14, 1:00pm; Mar. 28, 1:00pm; Apr. 11, 11:00am; Apr. 25, 11:30am; May 2, 4:30pm; May 9, 9:30am; May 23, 9:30am; June 6, 8:30am; June 20, 8:30am; and July 4, 18, Aug 1.

Steller Sea Lion Surveys

Assist us as we monitor one of the most southerly populations of Steller Sea Lions, the largest of the sea lions. Meet at Mile Marker 34.00, just north of Fort Ross. The next survey is scheduled for Sunday, March 15, 11:00am. More Steller Sea Lion surveys will be scheduled just prior to survey, weather and conditions permitting. These surveys are usually led by marine biologist Joe Mortenson.



Please call or email us to RSVP and confirm exact Harbor Seal and Steller Sea Lion monitoring dates, times, status and weather conditions. For more information please see our [Marine Mammal](#) web page. Contact: Hank Birnbaum at hankb@fortross.org or (707) 847-3437.

Restoration of the St. Nicolas Holy Trinity Chapel:
History and Techniques, 1812 thru 1974
Saturday, March 28th at 10:30



Join us for the first presentation of a series of 'Presentations on the Reconstruction of the Fort Compound'. Alongside the natural and cultural history stories of the place we now call Fort Ross is the history and personal stories of the construction, maintenance and restoration of the structures in the fort compound in the twentieth century. We are fortunate to have

Maria Sakovich, a leading historian and independent scholar on the Chapel; Bruce Johnson, master craftsman who worked on the reconstruction; and Deva Rajan, lead contractor in the construction of the Chapel. Our presentation will start in the visitor center auditorium with a slide show and discussion from the people who contributed to the research and restoration efforts under the leadership of California State Parks, starting with the first restorations in 1916 up through the early 1970s. Leaving the auditorium, we'll head down to the compound with our presenters, where we can see the structure and discuss the building techniques with people who had a hand in the reconstruction.



Park entrance fees apply and there will be a special event fee of \$5. Contact us at fortross.interp@parks.ca.gov for more information or call 707-847-4777.

Alaska Native Day May 16th, 10 am - 4 pm



Fort Ross Conservancy is proud to announce an exciting list of activities for our 2nd annual Alaska Native Day.



- Dr. Gordon L. Pullar, associate professor emeritus at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and a Kodiak Island Sugpiaq (Alutiiq), will be speaking on The Russian-Alaskan Creole, Then and Now. He has an intense interest in researching the ethno-history of Kodiak Island and his own family history that includes ancestry from indigenous people of Kodiak Island as well as Russians who worked in the fur trade in Russian America.
- Performances by [Anchorage Unangax Dancers](#), led by Ethan Petticrew. The group includes members of all ages from nearly every village in Unangam Tanaa (The Aleutians, Pribilofs, Shumagins and Western Peninsula).
- Kids crafts: Face "tattooing," language games, petroglyph rock painting, Chagudax (hunter's hats), spear throwing.
- Demonstrations - Beading, Chagudax carving.
- A hands-on [demonstration build of an iqyan](#) (baidara, or large open kayak).
- Traditional Iqyan race in Sandy Cove, with prizes for the winners. Rules apply - [no plastic kayaks!](#)
- All that and [dried fish!](#)

We will hold a short memorial for the Alaska Native ancestors who are buried in the Fort Ross cemetery.

This is a new event for us and sponsorship is needed - contributions towards



AND can be made at www.fortross.org/donate. For event updates and more, please consider joining the [Alaska Natives at Fort Ross Facebook](#) group. Download our [Save the Date poster](#) and spread the word! We thank Agnes Larsen Damell Scholarship fund, Ounalashka Corporation, Aleut Corporation and Maria Tkachuk for their support.

[See photos from last year's AND skinboat igyan race](#) and learn more about this fantastic partnership between Fort Ross and the diaspora Alaska Native community.

Special event fees apply: \$10 collected at the Visitor Center for the presentation, children free. California State Parks entrance fees also apply. California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact (707) 847-3437. We also have one beach wheelchair available to use on the premises.

The Environmental Living Program Applications



The Environmental Living Program, the popular overnight program with students will be sending out applications in April for the following school year. Now is the time to sign up and get your name on the list. We are reaching out to everyone to share this program out with teachers, homeschool groups, Russian schools, and parents who might be interested in signing up.

We are also scheduling a few programs this coming summer. Please visit our website for an overview of the ELP and to learn all about our educational programs run by State Parks. <http://www.fortrossstatepark.org/elp.htm>. A recent teacher who attended wrote to us saying 'my kids cheer in class when I say it is time to study Fort Ross. It is exciting to know they are so willing to learn about social studies'. Contact us for more info at fortross.interp@parks.ca.gov.



Thank You, Consulate General of the Russian Federation



On February 5th, the Russian Consulate and Fort Ross Conservancy co-hosted a wonderful evening of presentations and music. We would like to thank Consul General Sergey Petrov; Michael Barritt RN, President of the Hakluyt Society, and speakers Janet Hartley, Professor of International History at the London School of Economics and Political Science and James R. Gibson, Professor

Emeritus and Senior Scholar at York University, Toronto for working with us to highlight Russian America. Live performance by the St Petersburg [Konevets Quartet](#) rounded out a lovely evening. Photos available at [FRC's Facebook page](#).

Russian California, 1806-1860: A History in Documents

edited by James R. Gibson and Alexei A. Istomin



This two-volume collection is a documentary history of Russia's 19th-century settlement in California. It contains 492 documents (letters, reports, travel descriptions, censuses, ethnographic and geographical information), mostly translated from the Russian for the first time, very fully annotated, and with an extensive historical introduction, maps, and illustrations, many in color. This broad range of primary sources provides a comprehensive and detailed history of the Russian Empire's most distant and most exotic outpost, one whose liquidation in

1841 presaged St Petersburg's abandonment of all of Russian America in 1867.

FRC has autographed copies in stock that can be shipped directly to your home. Call (707) 847-3437 or email: info@fortross.org.

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