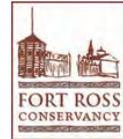


Fort Ross & Salt Point Parks News



March 2015

This issue features:

CSP Update
The Farallons
Upcoming Events
Guided Hikes
Safety Tips for Divers
Call for Volunteers
ELP Registration

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

Welcome Springtime! We are all feeling rejuvenated with the longer and warmer days with much to share. Bring your families and friends to the many programs and events at Fort Ross as there is something for everyone. Last month The National Association of Interpretation held a weekend conference full of inspiring presenters. Special thanks to Keynote Speaker Reno Franklin, the Kashaya Tribal Leader, for sharing the importance of park interpreters, managers, and all those working with parks and resources to include the Native Voice. We also hosted a lecture, Restoration of the St. Nicolas Holy Trinity Chapel. Thank you to Terriann Tomlin, State Park Interpretive Specialist, for bringing Maria Sakovich, Deva Rejan, and Bruce Johnson together to discuss the amazing history of this gem. Save The Redwood League is sharing updates about our special redwood trees on April 4th. It is interesting to think that possibly the first use of redwood using axe and saw was by those living here at Colony Ross. April 18th is Earth Day and many thanks to the Fort Ross Conservancy for securing a grant to repair the ELP garden fence. Please come out and join us for this work day. While we want you to come to Fort Ross to take in this rich history, we also want your life to be full of natural and cultural learning opportunities. Please visit the California State Park Website to learn about the many youth programs in your own neighborhood, such as Litter Getters, Outdoor Passport Program, and more at the [state parks website](http://www.stateparks.org). And last, I would like to remind you all of the beauty around you. California State Parks Foundation is hosting a photo contest. We would love to see many Fort Ross photos in the photo gallery. <http://www.myparkphotos.com/photos.html>

Robin Joy Wellman - State Park Interpreter I



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

Gulf of Farallones Update

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

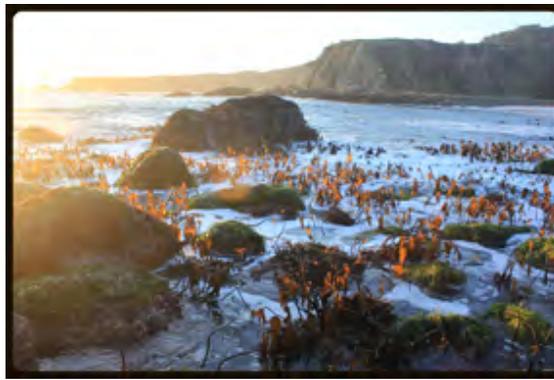
Register or Update Your Email Address

Contact Us

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

info@fortross.org
707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website



Great news on the local front – I'm very excited to announce that the Obama administration approved the expansion of the Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, protecting the entire Sonoma coastline under national marine sanctuary status. To learn more [see the map and links on FRC's website](#). Fort Ross' long history is indeed inextricably tied to these Pacific Ocean resources. FRC's new Marine Ecology Program provides a hands-on science based curriculum for middle and high school students. Students spend 24 intense hours in a gorgeous and most memorable setting learning about [marine mammal and intertidal monitoring and ecology](#). These outdoor educational opportunities should be available to a wide variety of students. Thanks to support from the California Coastal Commission and Renova Fort Ross Foundation, we are able to provide scholarships for deserving schools to participate – yes, scholarships for young people to come enjoy Fort Ross! To learn more, see our website's [Marine Ecology](#) and [Marine Ecology Scholarship](#) pages.

-Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy

Upcoming Events



March 28th, 10 am Park Champions
Feeling the volunteer spirit? Here's another chance to do good for your public lands: Help park staff and FRC prepare beautiful Reef Campground for its Spring opening by volunteering with Ca. State Park's Foundation's Park Champions. A light lunch will be provided. Free camping in a group setting for registered volunteers at nearby Salt Point State Park available on Friday & Saturday nights. Kids 12+ welcome with legal guardian, community service hours available. Register at [California State Parks Foundation](#).

March 28th, 10:30 am Restoration of the St. Nicolas Holy Trinity Chapel: History and Techniques, 1812 through 1974. A Presentation by Maria Sakovich, Bruce Johnson and Deva Rajan on the history and personal stories of the construction, maintenance and restoration of the Chapel .

March 28th, 1 pm (repeated on April 11th and 25th)
Fort Ross Conservancy's Marine Mammal Monitoring
Enjoy our precious coast & join our marine ecology citizen science initiative! Here on the North Coast, it appears that our sea lions have been mostly



spared the fate of the many starving young sea lions further to the south. Though our waters have warmed, our north winds and upwelling keep our waters cooler... providing sufficient food and a haven for possibly increasing numbers of mammals. Visit our [Marine Mammal Monitoring](#) webpage to learn more.

April 4th, 1 pm Save The Redwoods League Presentation and Hike
Come join Deborah Zierten, Education and Interpretation Manager for [Save the Redwoods League](#), for a presentation on the current state of the redwoods.

April 18th, Earth Day at Fort Ross
Join us for our Earth Day Work Day at Fort Ross. We'll be restoring the Environmental Living Program [student garden](#) with funds from a grant awarded to FRC by California State Parks Foundation. Join FRC and State Parks staff while we make big improvements to the garden. If you are a student who needs community service hours, this is a great opportunity!

April 19th, 3 pm Migrating Whales Along Our Coast
Join Jodi Smith, Founder and Executive Director of Naked Whale Research, for a lecture to learn more about the whale species found in our local waters.



May 16th, 10 am Alaska Native Day
Celebrate Alaska Native Culture with traditional boat building, [Anchorage Unangax Dancers](#), crafts, an Iqyan (kayak) race in Sandy Cove - and dried fish! [See our web page for details.](#)

July 25th 10 am Fort Ross Festival
Join us for Fort Ross Festival when we celebrate the international flavors and cultures at Fort Ross. Thanks to support from Renova Fort Ross Foundation and Russia's Ministry of Culture, we are thrilled to announce that the [St Petersburg's Horn Orchestra of Russia](#) will perform. This year's event will highlight the Kashia, Russian, Alaska Native, and California ranch era people who have called Fort Ross home over the centuries. We'll offer costumed historical vignettes, hands-on crafts, militia cannon firings, horse and buggy rides, music & dance from numerous cultures, an international food bazaar -- and of course the Fort Ross beer garden!

For more information please check out our website at www.fortross.org/events.htm



Guided Hikes Led by Susanna Barlow



Saturday April 11, 10am, Stillwater Cove Regional Park
Nestled between Fort Ross State Historic Park and Salt Point State Park is a jewel of a county park, Stillwater Cove Regional Park. In cooperation with Sonoma County Regional Parks a Saturday morning hike is being offered up Stockhoff Creek canyon in conjunction with their annual Spring celebration. This is one of the prettiest hikes on the Sonoma Coast. Regional Park staff have graciously offered to be on hand to make this first ever combined hike a true celebration. Park day use fees apply. This is a short, easy hike with a



wide trail and very little elevation gain. Meet at the Day Use parking area.

Dawn tide pool explorations at Fort Ross and Salt Point in April
A series of exceptional early morning minus tides are too tempting to miss. Please join us for an amazing intertidal exploration. It is worth getting up early to discover this beautiful, rich and fascinating world usually hidden from view. We will be slithering over rocks, so you need to be nimble. Please wear clothes that can get wet, shoes or boots with good grip, and bring your camera and a dry towel. Park day use fees apply. Tide pool hikes go for a little over one hour.

Sunday April 19 AND Monday April 20, Fort Ross State Historic Park
Meet at 6:30 am at the parking lot in front of the Fort Ross visitor center. We will walk down to Sandy Cove beach to enjoy these low, low tides.

Tuesday April 21, Salt Point State Park
Meet at 7 am at the parking lot at Gerstle Cove visitor center, in front of the Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve.

Questions about tide pools? Susanna Barlow at 707.847.3437 or susannab@fortross.org



Safety Tips for Abalone Divers



On behalf of the Salt Point and Fort Ross lifeguard staff I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy abalone season. Listed below are some safety reminders for park visitors who plan on going into ocean.



- Do not dive alone.
- Research the ocean conditions before your arrival.
- Make sure that you are entering and exiting the water in a safe location.
- Have a set dive plan and an emergency plan if something goes wrong.
- Test your equipment.
- Drop your weight belt at the first sign of trouble.
- If you get exhausted; stay calm, float and wave for help.
- Flag down the State Parks Lifeguard if you have any diving questions during your visit.

-- Joseph Stoffers, State Parks Lifeguard

Call for Volunteers



Dear Friends & Neighbors -

Fort Ross Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) and California Cooperating Association-would like to build connections with Sonoma County residents to solicit volunteer help for our various events at Fort Ross State Park. We can provide letters of community service documenting the hours worked. And if a volunteer works 24 hours in a calendar year, he or she will receive for the next calendar year a California State Parks pass that provides free day-use entry to many Sonoma and Mendocino county California State Parks. Fort Ross Conservancy holds two big celebrations each year, Fort Ross Festival on July 25, 2015, and Harvest Festival on October 17, 2015. We also have smaller events throughout the year where we could always use an enthusiastic helping hand! Our events calendar is at

www.fortross.org/events.htm



We need volunteers to help us with a myriad of tasks from collecting ticket, teaching historic crafts, running lunches to the musicians, and many things in between. You can come in period costume or street clothes, for a few hours or pitch a tent and stay for the duration. It's a great crowd of people and we all enjoy learning and working together. If you are interested in a more physical form of volunteerism, several times a year we hold Park Champions volunteer work days where we fix fences, clear trails, and otherwise help keep our public lands preserved and tidied. If you would like to learn more, please give us a call at 707/847-3437, or email our Special Events Manager Sondra Hunter at sondrah@fortross.org. Volunteers keep our parks thriving. We'd be grateful to see you at Fort Ross and Salt Point in 2015.

Register your class or homeschool group for the Environmental Living Program



Each and every weekday Colony Ross comes alive with the bright faces of costumed employees and officers participating in the Environmental Living Program (ELP) portraying real people who once lived here long ago, often answering only to the name of the person they represent. It is a constant reminder for us that Colony Ross represents lives of men, women, and children who have many untold stories. We can only imagine what life was like, walking gently in their footsteps, and bringing their spirit closer to us. We want to encourage you to share this program with parents and teachers you might know. The program is a highlight in the lives of many children who will hold those memories for a life time. In April we will start scheduling for next year. To learn more about this wonderful program visit our web <http://www.fortrossstatepark.org/programs.htm>. Or contact Robin Joy Wellman at robinjoy.wellman@parks.ca.gov. Fort Ross Conservancy has created a Youth Scholarship Program reaching underserved students, with support from the California Coastal Commission and the Renova Fort Ross Foundation. If you know of schools that don't often take field trips for funding reasons please share this grant program with them: www.fortross.org/elp-scholarships.htm. It is vital that all our youth have equal access to their

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Fort Ross Conservancy | 19005 Coast Highway One | Jenner | CA | 95450