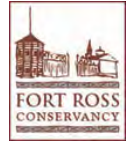


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# Fort Ross & Salt Point Parks News



January 2015

This issue features:

- State Parks Update
- FRC's Guided Hikes
- News from the Bookshop
- FRC General Meeting
- MMM Volunteer Training
- Beach Watch
- Save the Date

[Dear Fort Ross Friends,](#)

With the close of 2014, the 150th Anniversary of the founding of California State Parks came to a close. The year was full of wonderful celebrations throughout the state highlighting the state park system. The very first lands in the world to be set aside for protection and visitation were Yosemite in 1864 as a California State Park. Several years later it was signed over into the newly formed National Park System. California State Parks, the oldest State Park System in the world, as well as the largest State Park system in the world, will continue to thrive, bringing protection and educational opportunities to all the people of California as well as across the globe for another 150 years and more. Fort Ross, one of the first 10 state parks, is fortunate to have so much attention locally and internationally and continues to sparkle as one of the gems of the state. For the 150th Celebration we participated



in the "150 Quilts" project, shared the Story of CSP with hundreds of visitors handing out the 150th brochure, 150th stickers, discussing the history of parks, Junior Ranger programs, participated in the Sonoma County Fair with other State Parks, and introduced Ivan, the CSP Bear to our visitors and volunteers.

Fort Ross is ready for 2015. We have completed several major projects including the reconstruction of the fur warehouse, exhibits and updates for accessibility throughout the main areas of the park, and upgrades to the Visitor Center. Many thanks to our partners including the Gualala Art Center,

Gualala Regional Point Park, Sonoma County Museum, Sonoma State University, the Congress of Russian Americans, The Russian Center, and The San Francisco Presidio for bringing Fort Ross forward in your programs. Special thanks go to the Fort Ross Conservancy for keeping Fort Ross active, growing, and in the spotlight. Many of the special events and programs come through the work of the Conservancy and they work tirelessly to create an amazing experience. Last year we hosted school programs, scout programs, black powder training, teacher training for the overnight program, four volunteer trainings, five special events, supported a week-long festival: The Days of Sakha, created an academic one day conference, Junior Ranger programs in the summer, and worked closely with the Conservancy on our two major events: Fort Ross Festival and Harvest Festival. With gratitude we thank all our volunteers who make these special events successful. To learn more about volunteering visit our webpage at [www.fortrossstatepark.org](http://www.fortrossstatepark.org).

We all look forward to a fantastic year ahead.

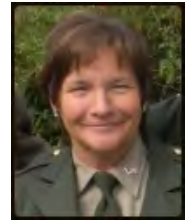
Fort Ross is open  
Friday - Monday  
10am-4:30pm  
The Call House Museum and  
Garden is open first weekend of  
each month from 1 to 4 PM.  
Please visit our website for more  
information on the park hours.

Fort Ross Conservancy  
501c3 / California Cooperating  
Association  
[www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org)  
707-847-3437  
[info@fortross.org](mailto: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](http://www.fortrossstatepark.org)  
ELP, ELDP, & School Groups  
Junior Ranger & Boy Scout  
programs  
Talks at the fort compound  
707-847-4777

Robin Joy

Robin Joy Wellman - State Park Interpreter I



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

## Fort Ross Conservancy's Guided Hikes

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



Saturday, February 14, 9 am

Wildflower Hike at Salt Point

Phillip's Gulch/Chinese Gulch loop, Kruse Rhododendron State Natural Reserve

This approximately two hour hike includes some elevation gain and short, steep climbs through a canyon of dense ferns. We will be looking for the first signs of Trillium and Calypso Orchids. Wear hiking shoes, and please, no dogs on this trail. The trail head is next to the parking area on Kruse Ranch Road.

For those attending the Feb. 14th FRC members' general meeting we also offer a short walk to Stanley Spyra Memorial Grove where we hope to find Fetid Adder's Tongue (or Slinkpods). This one spring wildflower is worth the trip alone.

Sunday, February 22, 8 am

Early Morning Hike @ Fisk Mill Cove Trail South



Our early Sunday morning hiking group is off to a fast start. Once a month it is worth getting up early and seeing how gorgeous the coast is at dawn. These energetic early morning hikes are planned to end at 9:45 am so you can drive up the hill in time for the community market. Meet at the most southern Fisk Mill Cove parking lot, park day use fees apply. Questions? Contact Susanna Barlow at 707 847-3437, [susannab@fortross.org](mailto:susannab@fortross.org).

--Susanna Barlow, FRC Salt Point Park Liaison

## News from the Fort Ross Conservancy's Bookshop

Holiday shopping is over, but there are still many reasons to visit the Fort Ross Bookshop! As the Bookshop Buyer, I love finding new titles to carry,



especially looking for books that focus on our incredibly beautiful natural history. This time of year, mushrooms -- some edible, some not -- are popping up all over the place, and it's very important to know the difference. We carry many mushroom identification books with colored photos, detailed descriptions, spore prints, watercolor

illustrations, & recipes. Some of the great titles we stock: All That the Rain Promises and More and Mushrooms Demystified, both by David Arora, Mushrooms of Northwest North America by Helene M. Schalkwijk-Barendsen, and the just-released The Wild Mushroom Cookbook, Recipes From Mendocino by Alison Gardner and Merry Winslow. And while you can admire Fort Ross' mushrooms, harvesting mushrooms at Fort Ross is not legal, but you can judiciously harvest at the parks to our north.

Want to shop but can't make it to the park? We've launched our online bookshop [www.shop.fortross.org](http://www.shop.fortross.org)!



To start, our online shop focuses on educational items and souvenirs, but if there is something else you're looking for you can always email us at [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org). I am particularly proud of our shop and so happy to bring the Fort Ross Bookshop into the 21st century!

-- Sondra K Hunter, FRC Special Events Manager & Bookshop Buyer

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### FRC Members' General Meeting Saturday, February 14, 12:30 am

All Fort Ross Conservancy members in good standing are invited to join us. The meeting will be held at the Fort Ross Visitor Center.

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### FRC Marine Mammal Monitoring Volunteer Training Sunday, February 15, 10:30 am - 2:00 pm Fort Ross Visitor Center





Plase join us to learn about [FRC's volunteer citizen science monitoring](#) of the Steller Sea Lions and Harbor Seals. The training includes an informative illustrated pinniped identification presentation offered by Dr. Joe Mortenson, co-author of Field Guide to Marine Mammals of the Pacific Coast, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Jamie Hall

from the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association. We will describe the marine mammal monitoring logistics and also introduce FRC's new Marine Ecology Program for high school students.

If you're parking in the Fort Ross parking lot State Park entrance fees do apply (unless you've worked for and received a Volunteers in Parks pass).

–Hank Birnbaum, FRC Programs Manager

## Beach Watch



FRC's staff and two local volunteers are now active partners with the [Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association and Beach Watch](#) a year-round shoreline ecosystem assessment program that has been collecting data along the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries territories for over two decades. Dedicated volunteers regularly survey over 200 beaches and bluffs, and now

our region is included!

In spring 2015 we anticipate the official announcement that the [Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries](#) will be expanded to include areas northward from Bodega Bay to beyond Point Arena – this includes Fort Ross and Salt Point parks – thus giving federal protection of our nutrient-rich ocean and abundant, diverse marine life.

We are excited to be a part of this project and welcome your participation.

–Susanna Barlow, FRC Salt Point Liaison

–Hank Birnbaum, FRC Programs Manager

## Save the Date

January 31st: Winter Celebration with Kedry

February 14th: FRC Members only General Meeting

February 21st: Pysanki Egg Decorating Workshop

March 1st: Edible and Medicinal Plants Workshop  
March 28th: Restoration of Fort Ross Chapel Presentation  
May 16th: Alaska Native Day  
May 30th: Ranch Era Tea & Presentation

More information on our [events](#) page.

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