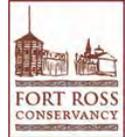


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Fort Ross & Salt Point Parks News



November 2014

This issue features:

FRC Update

Farallon Islands Talk

Community Potluck

Fort Ross is open
Friday - Monday &
major holidays
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

Dear friends of Fort Ross and Salt Point,

We enjoyed a very successful October, hosting several big events and welcoming many friends back to Fort Ross. First, we hosted our third annual [Fort Ross Dialogue](#), a one day conference that brought together Russian and US experts on technology, energy, culture and history. Drawn from scholarly and other non-governmental institutions, industry and government, Fort Ross Dialogue continued second-track discussions on enhancing the trans-Pacific relationship between Russia and the United States which dates back to the establishment of the southernmost settlement by the Russian-American Company at Fort Ross in 1812.



The next day, in partnership with the [Fort Ross-Seaview Wine Growers](#) we kicked off our annual [Harvest Festival](#) with historic crafts, interpretive talks, and plenty of interactive song & dance with both Kedry and Kitka. We especially like this event because it brings in a whole new community -- the foodies -- to learn about Fort Ross. A morning in the historic orchard was followed by the Grand Luncheon four-course feast, including top-notch local wine and Freestone/Sonoma cheeses curated by Omar Mueller -- all of which

made for a successful and abundant seasonal celebration. Autumn weather along the Pacific didn't fail us and we enjoyed a blissfully warm and sunny day in the nearly-sold out luncheon tent. Hope you can join us next year!

I want to thank all Harvest and orchard volunteers, State Parks staff, and of course the Fort Ross Conservancy team for making these events such a pleasure. We couldn't pull this off without you. Thank you!

Lastly, I want to acknowledge how far we've come over the past few years, as reflected in the recently-released California State Parks 2013 Co-operating Association Report. FRC is one of 85 California State Park co-ops across the state. In 2013 these non-profit groups generated over \$30 million in income and contributed close to \$13 million to their various state parks. Of the 85 co-ops, Fort Ross Conservancy ranks 7th out of 85 in both Gross and Net Income, 6th out of 85 in Contributions to California State Parks, and 1st in all categories for Russian River District!

We are proud of our service to these public lands, thrilled to contribute to this special

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

place, and keen to continue the trajectory we've been able to create over the few years. Let's work together to make 2015 even more successful.

With warm regards,

Register or Update Your Email
Address

Contact Us

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19005 Coast Highway One
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info@fortross.org
707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website

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



THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE FARALLON ISLANDS: From Formation to Culmination

Saturday, November 15th, 2pm
Fort Ross Visitor Center Auditorium



Today the Farallon Islands stand sentinel thirty miles west of the Golden Gate, their latest stop on a two-hundred-and-fifty-one-million year journey across ancient seas and prehistoric mountains. These islands have evolved to become a vital bastion for the diverse fauna of the North Pacific, and it's this diversity that has attracted adventurers, explorers, laborers and profiteers alike. The Farallons served as hunting grounds for ambitious fleets of Bostonians and they were Russia's established eastern border at its zenith, during which time they brought Alaska Native hunters and the first scientific observers to the islands. Russians and later Americans decimated both the pinniped and bird

populations over the decades, and later the U.S. Navy base brought in invasive species to the Island. Starting in the 1960s America began to reconsider its relationship to nature and the Farallons were among the first locations to be handed over to conservation; soon birds thought extinct returned and the first fur seals since the early nineteenth century have been born. The islands now serve as a protected wilderness.

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. This presentation will cover:

- Geologic formation of the Islands,



- Faunal evolution,
- First Human impacts,
- The Alaska Natives and the edge of Russian empire, and Russian administration of the Islands,
- Eminent domain or Eggers Rights, early U.S. administration of the Islands,
- Age of neglect,
- First conservation efforts, and the long road to recovery,
- The wilderness act & methods used for recovery,
- The future of the island and the North Pacific.



This event is sponsored by Fort Ross Conservancy. No special event fees required but CSP gate fees (\$8/car) still apply. However, donations to Fort Ross Conservancy greatly appreciated.

FRC Holiday Party & Community Potluck December 13th, 12:30 pm



Fort Ross Conservancy Board of Directors
& Andrea Mapes, California State Parks



Please join us for our end-of-year celebration as we bring friends and family together to celebrate the holiday season and make plans for the new year. In the morning we have our final Fort Ross Conservancy board of directors meeting of 2014, which is open to the public. Lunch starts at 12:30 -- we'll provide some hearty protein but bring something to share. Questions? Email info@fortross.org



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