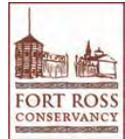


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# Fort Ross & Salt Point Parks News



November 2014

This issue features:

FRC Update

Guided Hikes

First Day Hike

Marine Mammal Monitoring

Marine Mammal Ecology

Fort Ross is open  
Friday - Monday &  
Dec 23,24 and Dec 26 through  
Jan 2nd  
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

## Dear friends of Fort Ross and Salt Point,

I've always loved November with its changeable weather, gorgeous warm light, and seasonal abundance, and this month has been particularly appealing with the arrival of rain -- finally our hills are green! Fort Ross Conservancy staff is enjoying the low season by catching up on desk work, [website updates](#), and grant writing to prepare us for the new year. It's a great time to visit the park, and don't forget that our bookshop under the artistic eye of Sondra Hunter offers wonderful holiday shopping opportunities.

Our last event of the year is the FRC Community Potluck on December 13th. In the morning you are welcome to join the FRC board meeting which starts at 10am. The Community Potluck starts at 12:30pm. Enjoy live music, socialize with your neighbors and wider Fort Ross community and learn about our 2015 plans. While the potluck is primarily a social occasion, I will take a few minutes to describe our current and future projects, explain who is funding Fort Ross, and share with you our broader vision. Lunch alone should motivate you to join - it's always delicious. FRC will provide some protein but please bring something to share.

Wishing you a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday,

Warm regards,

Sarah Sweedler  
Fort Ross Conservancy President & CEO  
[sarahs@fortross.org](mailto:sarahs@fortross.org)



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Guided Hikes  
December 4th, 13th, 21st

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

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



A new series of winter hikes has been initiated by Fort Ross Conservancy, the first Thursday, the second Saturday and the third Sunday of the month. Join us! Winter is a time of the least visitation in our parks, but it is the most beautiful time of year. Almost 6 1/2 inches of rain thus far this season has brought back shimmering green to every vista. Western Dog Violets, *Viola adunca*, which normally bloom in March, have been spotted on our coastal bluffs.

December 4: A three hour hike exploring the most spectacular section of Salt Point State Park. Meet at 11:am at the most northern parking lot of Fisk Mill Cove. There is one entrance and three separate parking lots. Please wear sturdy shoes, bring your own picnic lunch, water and binoculars if you have them. This is a fairly level hike but you need to be surefooted.

December 13: A generous one hour hike exploring some of the rarely visited areas of Fort Ross along the San Andreas fault. Meet at the Fort Ross State Historic Park parking lot at 10:30 and we will car pool up to the Fort Ross orchard. This hike is designed to whet your appetite prior to the holiday party later that same day. Fairly level hike, but the grass will be wet (we hope) so wear hiking boots.

December 21: An early morning hike to get your blood pumping, finishing in time to get back to the Community Market at 10 am. Meet at 8 am, yes 8 am! at Stump Beach Parking lot in Salt Point State Park. Early mornings are simply glorious on this stretch of coast with light straffing the clouds and the waves booming. If it has rained we may get see a waterfall gushing over the cliffs. Wear sturdy shoes/hiking boots and bring a walking pole if you have one. One section has a steep incline.

These are rain or shine hikes but high winds will cancel. Remember to dress in layers and bring clothes suitable for wet weather. Questions? Please contact Susanna Barlow at 707-847-3437 or [susannab@fortross.org](mailto:susannab@fortross.org). At some locations day use fees will apply. Unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on these trails and should be left at home.

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## Marine Mammal Monitoring



Join us to learn more about our local pinnipeds and assist with our citizen scientist effort monitoring the Harbor Seals along our coast. Our Harbor Seal survey requires approximately two miles and two hours of low-tide fieldwork. We begin by quickly scoping out the inhabitants on Sea Lion Rocks where we usually see the large Steller and California Sea Lions, and then proceed along our ocean bluff shores to Fort Ross Cove.

For further information on Harbor Seal and also Steller Sea Lion surveys please visit our webpage at [www.fortross.org/marine-mammals.htm](http://www.fortross.org/marine-mammals.htm).

Upcoming Harbor Seal surveys dates:

Saturday, Dec. 13, meet at 10:00 am (low tide of 2.3' at 10:17 am)

Saturday, Jan. 17, meet at 2:30 pm (low tide of -0.3' at 2:45 pm)

Saturday, Feb. 14, meet at 1:00 pm (low tide of 0.0' at 1:27 pm)



## First Day Hike Thursday, January 1st, 10:30 am



Start your new year on the right foot - join us for our First Day Hike in Salt Point State Park! This year's Fisk Mill-Stump Beach round-trip four hour, four mile moderate hike will feature stunning ocean views, bishop pine forests, local historical insights and a white sandy beach. (Possible one-way hike option to Stump Beach then carpool return. For details please visit our [Events](#) page. Questions? Call 707-847-3437 or Email [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org)



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## Introducing Fort Ross Conservancy's New Marine Ecology Program



FRC recently launched our Marine Ecology program, bringing two San Francisco public schools to Ross for 24+ hours of intense outdoor education. This field trip leveraged our marine monitoring efforts and introduced these young people to Ross' historic and contemporary cultural and natural history. To read testimonials, view our marine data, and see great photos of these teens in the field, see [www.fortross.org/marine-ecology.htm](http://www.fortross.org/marine-ecology.htm). This new program is available to the public and California schools. Contact us at [info@fortross.org](mailto:info@fortross.org) for more information.

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