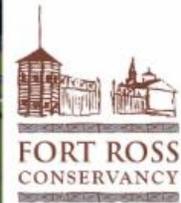


MAY 2018



Fort Ross & Salt Point News

Dear friends of Fort Ross and Salt Point,

Who says California doesn't have seasons? Highway One is peppered with RVs and motorcycles, folks from California's Central Valley are coming West to escape the heat, and campgrounds are bustling. We're on the cusp of summer time busyness and there's plenty to do and see: FRC and CSP have wildflower and whale walks scheduled at Salt Point, and walking tours that cover both the history and wildlife at Fort Ross.



We're pleased to announce that our big July 28th summer celebration, **Fort Ross Festival**, will arrive with a boom this year: with fantastic support from California State Parks, we are bringing back the cannon and militia to this year's celebration. Nothing like a bone-rattling ka-boom to get people excited!

We're also bringing Fort Ross Kitchen Diplomacy to our Festival by launching our first-ever Borscht Cook-off. We welcome home cooks to bring a pot of their favorite family recipe to share, with prizes awarded for the best borscht of the day. If all goes well maybe a TV cooking show will follow. Details at FRC's website <https://www.fortross.org/fort-ross-festival-2018.htm>

Our awesome Volunteer Coordinator Melissa could still use a few more capable hands to pull this community event together. Interested? Email her to see what's needed.

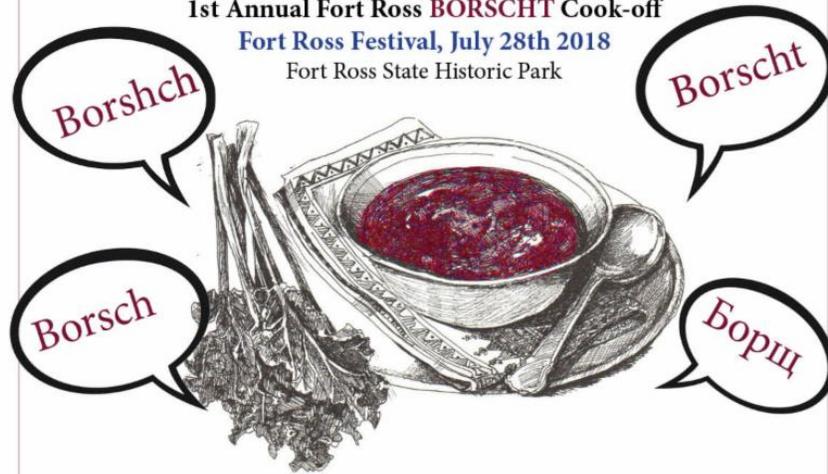
Our **May 19th Alaska Native Day**, truly one of the most photogenic events ever hosted at Fort Ross, is just days away. Check out our events page and come visit. We hope to see you soon.

--Sarah

Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy CEO
sarajs@fortross.org

KITCHEN DIPLOMACY in action

1st Annual Fort Ross **BORSCHT** Cook-off
Fort Ross Festival, July 28th 2018
Fort Ross State Historic Park



You can spell it a hundred different ways. Tomatoes, no tomatoes, meat, no meat, to dill or not to dill, cold or hot? A babushka might put the kibosh on your family recipe, but at Fort Ross, we welcome all varieties to the table.

We invite you to share your family's best recipe.
Competition will be held at our July 28th **Fort Ross Festival**
in the fort compound between 12 and 2pm.
Prizes will be awarded to the top three winners.

Instructions on how to enter the Borscht Cook-off are [online](#), or
Email Melissa (melissam@fortross.org) with questions.

Let Fort Ross be a place of kitchen diplomacy!

Приятного аппетита!

#notyourbabushkasborscht#borschtcookoff#russianfood#kitchendiplomacy

ELP OPEN ENROLLMENT



Environmental Living Program Open Enrollment is now open! Book your 2018-2019 ELP/ELDP on our new online [booking calendar](#).

Please be careful to read the instructions above the calendar before starting! For questions, please email Song Hunter at songh@fortross.org.

RELIEF PRINTING FROM NATURE

Relief Printing from Nature with Laurel Prieto

May 27, 2018
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Fort Ross State Historic Park Auditorium

Class Fee - \$40/Person (includes \$8/person gate fee) -
[RSVP Only](#)

Join us for a day of linoleum cut printmaking! We will take a



walk outside to find inspiration from the beautiful surroundings at the Fort Ross State Historic Park, observing and sketching the unique flora and fauna. Then we will transfer these images to our printing matrix, carve, and print! Everyone will go home with a set of their own original relief prints, or exchange with others for a mixed set. The workshop will be hands-on and messy, so bring an apron, as well as drawing tools and a sketchbook. All other materials will be provided as part of the class fee, but if you would like to bring some additional paper to print on, feel free! Papers that are thin, smooth, and strong (not easily tearable) will work best. Looking forward to a fun, art-filled day!

Bring a lunch, we will provide light refreshments.

MARINE MAMMALS AT FORT ROSS



Marine Mammal Monitoring - Sea Lion Survey Project

During our last monthly sea lion survey of the Fort Ross Sea Lion Rocks, FRC's Director of Programs Song Hunter spotted the first tagged animal we've seen during one of our surveys! The animal was a California sea lion, and from the yellow tag we can tell this sea lion was

tagged at San Miguel Island (the westernmost of California's Channel Islands).

Luckily, Song was able to get a good photograph of the tagged animal (circled area in the image shows the tagged animal, but you can see that a tag can be very easy to miss), so that we could send the image to the Marine Mammal Laboratory (MML -- a division of NOAA's Alaska Fisheries Science Center). MML collects re-sighting photographs of California and Steller sea lions, which happens to be the two resident sea lion species at Fort Ross.

Sea lion tagging and branding is done by (NOAA Fisheries) authorized research organizations and agencies, so that individual animals can be tracked throughout their lifetime, providing scientists with valuable information concerning migratory patterns, habitat use, reproductive success and much more. [Click here for more information about sea lion branding in the Pacific Northwest.](#)

The more re-sightings the better! If you are ever out observing the sea lions at Fort Ross and get a photograph of a branded and/or tagged animal, please send to Charon Vilnai at charonv@fortross.org.

-Charon Vilnai, FRC Programs Instructor & Sea Lion Survey Project Lead

SALT POINT ACTIVITIES



Wildflower Walks

May 20th & 27th - 10 am
Meet at Gerstle Cove Visitor Center for a two-hour hike to observe wild flowers, migrating whales, harbor seals, and fascinating geology.

Saturday Night Campfire Program

May 27th - 7:30 pm
Park or walk to Woodside day use parking and join the campfire at Hike & Bike area
Family Fun Theme: Animals of the Park

Bring: Folding chairs, flashlights, drinks, and

blankets.



On Tuesday May 8th, over a hundred park supporters and advocates descended on our State Capital to stand up for our public lands, both Sarah Sweedler and myself among them to join the movement. The event is led each year by the dedicated and inspirational staff of the California State Parks Foundation, who spend months preparing and planning for us. The morning was spent listening to presenters from around the state, informing us of the assembly bills and propositions that are currently in appropriation or on the ballot for the primaries.

We were assembled in groups of four, representing different parks from our local areas. I was paired with Tony Passantino and Richard

Dale from the Sonoma Ecology Center/Friends of Sugarloaf, Martin Lowenstein from Friends of China Camp with our lead Nils-Michael Landengorg from Laguna de Santa Rosa.

Our task: meet, inform and inspire the assembly-persons and senators with the bills presented. This was far from a hard task for all of us as the bills are all in support of community involvement, increased visitation to museums, offer grants for outdoor education to underserved and at-risk communities, and transportation to get youth to our parks. The passion and enthusiasm with which we told our stories, showcasing each of our park's rich histories and dedication to our missions was inspiring to all of us.

We met with Senior Legislative Aide Vleck Taing for Assemblymember Ian Calderon, Legislative Director Erin Baum for Assemblymember David Chiu, Assemblymember Marc Levine and California Senator Mike McGuire. Our group parted ways feeling that we had made four new friends and had inspired our local representatives with our causes.

For a full recap from the California State Parks Foundations, see their [blog post](#).

- Song Hunter, Director of Programs



Visit our website at WWW.FORTROSS.ORG for details