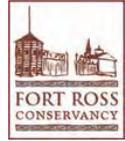


# Fort Ross & Salt Point Parks News



April 2014

This issue features:

FRC Update  
CSP Update  
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Kashaya Update  
CALPA conference  
All Alaska Native Day  
Upcoming Events

## Dear friends of Fort Ross & Salt Point,

I'd like to introduce our first newsletter we'll be distributing monthly in partnership with our State Park Interpreters. In addition to announcing the many Fort Ross events we've got on the calendar, our shared newsletter will highlight all the natural and cultural stories that make this stretch of land so important to all of us.

Fort Ross is open  
Thursday - Monday &  
major holidays  
10am-4:30pm  
The Call House Museum and  
Garden is open first weekend  
of each month from 1 to 4 PM

Our parks are finally open to the public five days a week, and many of you have asked what good fortune brought this about. Funding comes from two sources. With generous help from all our donors & partners, Fort Ross Conservancy in turn donated funds to California State Parks, and under AB1478 "Donor Match" program, Sacramento is matching some of those donations by funding State Parks staff time and opening the park. The other piece of funding comes from Sacramento's new "revenue generation" program whereby a busy park gets some of the revenue it generates returned via more open hours. We are grateful to Russian River District State Parks staff for their creativity and to all our wonderful donors and partners. We hope this good news lasts a good long time.

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

In addition to our new online library we announced last month, we wanted to toot our digital horn and remind you to check out all the social media we've got running. We've got a YouTube channel, several Facebook and Pinterest pages, and probably even a Twitter feed, in addition to our website, of course. If you have appropriate content – videos, photos, or otherwise – for any of these venues, please post and share. Even a historic park needs to modernize.

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

It's spring and everything's fresh and blooming. I recommend we all get outside and enjoy it while we can.

Warm regards,

Recommended Websites  
California State Parks  
Foundation  
Sonoma Birding

Wikipedia on Fort Ross  
California State Parks  
Salt Point State Park

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Register or Update Your  
Email Address

## Contact Us

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707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website



## CSP UPDATE

California State Parks celebrates the 150th Anniversary this year with the founding of the world's first state park in 1864, when President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill granting 39,000 acres of Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Tree Grove to the State of California. The California Historical Landmark Commission purchased Fort Ross and donated the lands to California State Parks in 1906, making it one of the first ten State Parks in our now 280 unit State Park System. To learn more about the founding and growth of our State Park System and events dedicated to the 150th Anniversary, visit [www.150.parks.ca.gov](http://www.150.parks.ca.gov).

The Fort Ross State Historic Park staff is pleased and honored to support our mission, working side-by-side with the Fort Ross Conservancy, providing for the health, inspiration, and education of all park visitors by protecting and preserving our rich heritage that Fort Ross encompasses. To this end, we are dedicated in providing educational programs of the highest standards, enriching the lives of those we touch. We bring rich and diverse programs with a talented and dedicated team. Please join us as we grow and thrive as a park and people.

There are many programs supporting the 150th Commemoration. The recently passed Assembly Bill 150 will honor our active and veteran military men and women on Memorial Day and Veterans Day with a free day use pass with valid ID. Our active volunteers will soon be getting a free pin to commemorate the year at the May 17th training and appreciation. Fort Ross has created a quilting opportunity (you don't have to be an experienced quilter to be a part of this) called 'Piece of Fort Ross' with 20 to 40 quilters to create a square. Be a part of history! Sign up now. Please read more on our [website](#).

May 17th is a big day at Fort Ross. Not only will we be celebrating the Alaska Natives and their diverse culture, we will also hold our annual Russian Spring Event and Volunteer in Parks training and appreciation; truly, something for everyone. If you currently volunteer at Fort Ross, it is asked that you attend a one-time training and introduction to the State Parks and our volunteer programs. The training begins at 9:00am in the fort compound. After the full day of educational and entertaining events, we want to honor our volunteers, which also takes place in the fort at 4:30pm. Join us!

The 2014 [Family Nature Summit](#) held in Monterey, at the Asilomar Conference Grounds June 28 - July 4, is offering a full scholarship to dedicated CALIFORNIA educators. The Family Nature Summit non-profit organization spends one week each summer in a select location around the US supporting teachers and inspiring their use of nature in their classroom. It's a quick and easy application. Please share this announcement to worthy teachers in California.

Please learn more about our educational programs by visiting our web

at [www.fortrossstatepark.org](http://www.fortrossstatepark.org). I would like to close with this quote from John Muir "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul."



*Robin Joy*

Robin Joy Wellman  
State Park Interpreter I



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## WE'VE GOT PUPS!



FRC has been monitoring the marine mammals at Sea Lion Rocks for the past year, thanks to seed money from [California State Parks Foundation](#) and [Renova Fort Ross Foundation](#) and with help from our hearty volunteers. Springtime brings harbor seals pups along our shores, but more exciting is that we've seen California and Steller Sea Lions nursing some juvenile pups offshore on Sea Lion Rocks. We've seen a few tagged sea lions that have also

been spotted as far away as the Channel Islands and north near the Oregon border. Want to learn more or come join us? [See our website for details.](#)



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## KASHAYA UPDATE



My name is Martina Morgan, State Park Interpreter at Fort Ross, and I am very happy to present to you our Chairman of the Kashaya Band of Pomo Indians, Reno Franklin. We, the Kashaya, have high hopes for our Chairman and believe he can advance the Kashaya People as a whole into a greater future. I look forward to seeing Chairman Reno working with Fort Ross State Historic Park to better inform the public of our Kashaya Story.



Chairman Reno Keoni Franklin is an enrolled member of the Kashia Bank of Pomo Indians. His family comes from the Kashaya villages of Dukashal and Aca Sine Cawa Li (Human Head Sitting). He was raised in a traditional Kashaya Family and was taught his culture, language, and traditions from his elder family members and other respected Kashia Pomo tribal members. He has a deep appreciation and understanding of the area at Fort Ross and what it represents to his people. Chairman Franklin has spent his entire life learning his own culture and for the last 11 years has worked in the cultural-historic preservation field, serving as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Language Preservation Specialist, NAGPRA Officer, and Cultural Resources Director. He has worked extensively with numerous universities, governmental agencies,





foreign countries, (Canada, England, Ireland, Japan, and soon Russia), Congress and both President Bush and President Obama, providing a tribal perspective and voice on preservation and repatriation issues. He has been instrumental in elevating the Historic and Cultural Preservation needs of his tribe and hundreds of others to the national level by maintaining a strong tribal voice on Capitol Hill. In 2009 Mr. Franklin became the first California Indian to be elected as Chairman of the National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers. From 2009-2013 Chairman Franklin served on the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, providing a tribal perspective on historic preservation to the President of the United States and the Department of Interior. In 2010 he called on Congress and the Government Accountability Office to investigate federal agency compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and the Smithsonian Institute (SI) compliance with NAGPRA SI specific provisions. This resulted in an investigation that aided in the first amendments to NAGPRA in nearly 20 years and increased accountability to Tribes from the SI.



Locally, Chairman Franklin successfully negotiated the first ever Cultural Easement/Co Management Agreement between a Tribe and a governmental agency in the State of California. He was also at the front of the repeal of the Marine Life Preservation Act erroneous designation of Stewart's Point as a 'no gather' area. Always mindful of the potential for increased and better relationships between local and state government agencies, he has provided numerous training's for government officials and employees.

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### CALPA Comes to West Sonoma County



Fort Ross Conservancy would like to thank our sister coop Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods for co-hosting with us the California League of Park Associations annual conference. We brought over 120 State Park nonprofit leaders from across California to Western Sonoma County for three days of educational and entertaining discussions, including a wonderful day at Fort Ross,

presentations by Parks Forward Commission, and a banquet dinner with Major General Jackson, Director of California State Parks. Great fun to be with like-minded people!




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### ALL ALASKA NATIVE DAY & SPRING CELEBRATION Saturday, May 17



On May 17th we launch what we hope will become an annual event at Fort Ross: the All Alaska Native Day. This event will pay tribute to the enormous importance of the Alaska Native people who were so influential in the history of Fort Ross. It will be a full day, with presentations by historian Dan Murley and writer and baidarka-builder George Dyson, as well as bentwood hat demonstrations, baidarka races in the cove, and of course rich conversation, good food and warm drinks.

- 10am: Coffee and tea, lecture and presentation in auditorium, with presentations by retired California State Parks historian Dan Murley and others
- 12pm: Baidarka race with prizes at Sandy Beach Cove
- 2:30pm: Lecture by George Dyson on baidarka building.

We are fortunate to also welcome Russia House Kedry to Fort Ross for this event, so the Spring celebration will be filled with song.



Lecture special event fee applies; \$10 per person, plus California State Parks \$8 per car entrance fee - please carpool! Tickets for the lecture available at the door of the Fort Ross Visitor Center, or in advance via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

See [www.fortross.org](http://www.fortross.org) for details. California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact (707) 847-3437.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### FORT ROSS FESTIVAL Saturday, July 26

A lively day of history and music! Join us once again for our annual multicultural celebration of the Kashaya, Russian, Alaskan and Ranch era people who make Fort Ross unique.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL Saturday, October 18

In partnership with Fort Ross-Seaview Wine Growers and our best local chefs, come celebrate the seasonal abundance of Sonoma County!



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