



Fort Ross & Salt Point State Parks News

December 2013

This issue features:

END OF YEAR APPEAL

Membership News

1st Day Walk

Kitka Concert

FRC Community Potluck

Upcoming Events

Dear Friends-

We'd like to thank you for your past support of Fort Ross Conservancy, invite you to renew your membership and [make a generous donation](#) today, at the close of another wonderfully exciting year at Fort Ross and Salt Point parks. We've been busy, and once again we couldn't have done it without our beloved members and volunteers!

Register or Update Your
Email Address

Contact Us

Fort Ross Conservancy
19005 Coast Highway One
Jenner, CA 95450

info@fortross.org
707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website



In 2013 we've put on a full calendar of fantastic events, in particular the Fort Ross Festival in July and our annual October Harvest Festival and inaugural Fort Ross-Seaview Winegrowers luncheon and wine tasting, as well as dozens of lectures, volunteer work days, movie nights, plein air painting classes, poetry readings, and more -- see www.fortross.org/events for a complete listing. Each of these events brought increased visibility and new visitors from near and far.

FRC has also kicked off a [Marine Mammal Monitoring Program](#), and if our recent burst of grant writing proves successful, we'll be rolling out a middle-school marine ecology program to help our youth better understand the connection between our historic use of natural resources and the current biodiversity of our ocean. We are also partnering to update our General Planning document, a twenty-year visioning document that, once completed, will allow us to work towards numerous longer term goals -- a trail plan, improved Visitor Center, and more!

While we acknowledge that there are many deserving non-profits knocking at your door, our parks definitely need your continued support. Membership rolls are important, and that is why we make every effort to keep our membership price low. And to encourage you to renew, we have some wonderful membership gifts described [here](#). Please print the membership form and send to us with your donation and membership fee.

Of course, in addition to the membership gifts, members receive advance invitations to 2014 events, our twice-yearly hard copy newsletter, monthly e-news, and a 10% discount at our gift shop.

[We also encourage you to make a generous end-of-year, fully tax deductible donation to Fort Ross Conservancy.](#) Over the last 18 months, FRC has expanded its capacity and outreach substantially and we are proud of the many projects and events we've overseen and created. This next year will be equally important in resolving our severe "service



reductions" – Fort Ross is open only on weekends, and many of our adjoining parks are still closed year round. This is a critical time for parks and the nonprofits that support them, and we need your help so that we can continue our work of connecting people to the history and beauty of Fort Ross and Salt Point State parks.



We always appreciate hearing from you, so don't hesitate to send us your feedback or questions. Our website also provides a wealth of information, including a list of projects and events completed in 2013, and we suggest you visit it often. Please join us for our annual community potluck at Fort Ross Visitor Center on Saturday December 14th from 12:30 to 2:30.

As always, we are grateful for our diverse and generous community who keep our parks humming. Thanks again, and we look forward to seeing you at the fort!



Sarah Sweedler



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



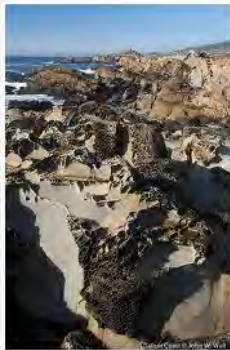
FIRST DAY HIKE
Fort Ross State Historic Park
January 1, 2014, 10 AM



Start your new year on the right foot - join us for a first day hike! Meet at the Fort Ross State Historic Park parking lot. Three-hour, 3-4 mile loop forest and ocean bluff hike. Bring sack lunch, appropriate shoes (be prepared for some moisture), binoculars, layered clothing. Park entrance fees apply. Sorry, no dogs allowed. For more information, please visit www.fortross.org/events.htm or contact Hank Bimbaum at hankb@fortross.org or call (707) 847-3437.



WINTERSONGS Kitka Women's Vocal Ensemble at Fort Ross Sunday, December 8



12:30 PM - VIP Fort Ross Package - Blessing Songs in the Historic Chapel, Russian Tea and Pirogis with Kitka, special tour, reserved prime seating for 3 PM Wintersongs Concert in the Visitor Center auditorium. \$55.00/person, advance tickets only, proceeds benefit Fort Ross Conservancy.

== OR ==



3:00 PM - Wintersongs Concert. Advance general admission tickets: \$20, \$15 (seniors and students). Tickets at the door: \$25, \$20 (seniors and students). Space is limited: Advance reservations highly recommended!

California State Parks gate fees also apply; \$8 per car, or \$7 per car with senior. Please carpool!

VIP Fort Ross Package and Wintersong Concert tickets available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/515417>



For additional information email Hank Birbaum, hankb@fortross.org, or see Kitka's [website](#).

California State Parks supports equal access. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact (707) 847-3437.



Annual End-of-Year Community Potluck Saturday, December 14, 12:30 - 2:30



Join Fort Ross Conservancy for our annual community potluck in the Fort Ross Visitor Center. FRC will kick-start the menu with a few hearty

entrees and beverages. Bring something for the table, stay for the live music and great camaraderie.

For additional information email Sarjan at sarjanh@fortross.org



Fort Ross Windmill Turning Saturday, December 14, 12:00



Join us for an informal talk about the windmill while volunteers spin the blades and rotate the house. Questions? Email Hank Birnbaum at hankb@fortross.org. For more information on the Fort Ross windmill please visit our [webpage](#).



Marine Mammal Monitoring At Fort Ross Saturday, December 14, 2:45

Assist with our citizen scientist efforts monitoring the Harbor Seals along our coast, now once a month through February. Meet at Fort Ross State Historic Park Visitor Center then carpool to roadside trailhead at Highway One Mile Marker 33.52. This almost two-mile, two-hour low-tide ocean bluff shoreline survey ends at Fort Ross Cove. For more information please email hankb@fortross.org or visit our [webpage](#).



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