



Fort Ross & Salt Point State Parks News

February 2014

This issue features:

Fort Ross & Salt Point 2014 Events

2014 Events
Upcoming Events
Marine Mammal Training
P. Kalifornsky Presentation
Park Champions
Orchard Celebration
Seaweed Workshop
Save the Date

The first few months of 2014 have come and gone in a blur, spring season is almost upon us, and all of us here at Fort Ross are preparing for another wonderful year of events and programs. We've listed upcoming highlights and we encourage you to visit our webpage frequently to learn what's new at Fort Ross.

Fort Ross is open on
Saturdays, Sundays and
major holidays.
10am- 4:30pm

The Call House Museum and
Garden is open first weekend
of each month from 1 to 4
PM.

In addition to our park events, consider registering for California State Parks Foundation's 12th Annual Park Advocacy Day, on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 in Sacramento. During Park Advocacy Day, park users, volunteers and supporters will gather at the Capitol to meet with legislators and bring awareness to issues important to the future of California's 280 state parks. This is a great opportunity to remind our local leaders that many Western Sonoma County State Parks, including Fort Ross, are still suffering from closures and service reductions. These meetings have a lasting impact on legislators as they make important decisions about state park protection and the funding of state parks.

Looking forward to seeing you at your favorite state park soon!

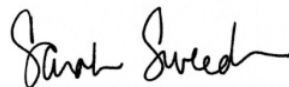
Register or Update Your
Email Address

Contact Us

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707-847-3437

Fort Ross Website



Sarah Sweedler
Fort Ross Conservancy President & CEO
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MARINE MAMMAL MONITORING TRAINING
Sunday, March 2, 1-3 PM



Join us at the Fort Ross Visitor Center for an illustrated pinniped identification presentation by Joe Mortenson, co-author of Field Guide to Marine Mammals of the Pacific Coast. Our goal is to train volunteers to help with Fort Ross Conservancy's ongoing "citizen scientist" monitoring of the Steller Sea Lions and Harbor Seals at Fort Ross. California State Park entrance fees apply.

Upcoming Marine Mammal Monitoring:

Harbor Seal Surveys & Steller Sea Lion Observations
March 8, March 23, April 5

Please read more on our marine mammal [web page](#). Contact Hank Birnbaum at hankb@fortross.org or call us at 707-847-3437.



FROM THE FIRST BEGINNING, WHEN THE ANIMALS WERE TALKING

Peter Kalifornsky on the iPad
Saturday, March 8, 3 PM

Peter Kalifornsky (1911-1993), member of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, was the last speaker of his language and the great-great-grandson of Qadanalchen, chief of Kalifornsky Village, who received his surname after his time and labors in early 19th century California and Fort Ross.

Join Katherine McNamara, author and iBooks producer, as she shares Peter Kalifornsky's story as a just released multi-touch book for iPad and Mac.

Free presentation at Fort Ross State Historic Park Visitor Center Auditorium. California State Park entrance fees apply.



SALT POINT PARK CHAMPIONS WORK DAY Saturday, March 22

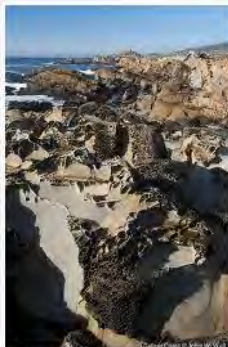


In partnership with California State Parks Foundation and their wonderful Park Champions program, we have scheduled four volunteer work days. All skill levels welcome, as we'll have a variety of chores to work on. Volunteering provides a great way to meet new people, fulfill community service hours, and get outside to enjoy our public lands. Sign-up is available from the [CSPF website](#), or [email us](#) with questions.

Our first work day will be at Salt Point Park, where we'll prepare Woodside Campground and associated trails for another season of happy campers. Work the day and get free camping in the group camp setting for March 21 and 22.



**CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE HISTORIC
FORT ROSS ORCHARD**
Saturday, April 12



The Fort Ross orchard was planted by the Russian in 1814 and several trees from the mid 1800s are still living. This conference, organized by Fort Ross Conservancy Advisor Susan Rudy, will bring together orchardists and experts from California State Parks and National Parks to discuss historic orchard care, describe future projects slated for the Fort Ross orchard, and tour the orchard to see the work that's been done over the past few years. Special event fees apply, and optional picnic lunch available for purchase. Space is limited; email us at info@fortross.org for more information.

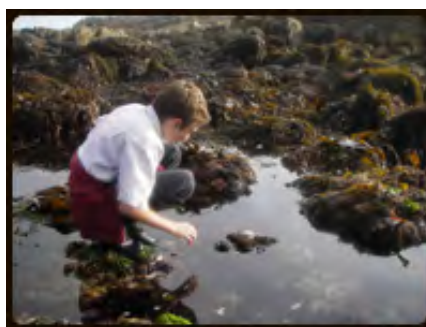
Thanks go to [Renova Fort Ross Foundation](#) for underwriting many of our orchard preservation projects over the past few years. For more information on the historic Fort Ross orchard see our [orchard](#) pages.



SONOMA SEAWEED WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 26

Illustrated Presentation (1-2:30) and Field Work (3-4:30)



We live in abundance, including a rich variety of seaweeds! Seaweeds can be used as food, medicine and fertilizer. Nori, wakame, bladderwrack and kombu are just a few of the local seaweeds that we'll learn about. The informative illustrated presentation includes how to identify, sustainably harvest and use our coastal "sea vegetables" and will also discuss pollutants, the health of our coastlines, harvest cycles and the health benefits of seaweed. Later in the afternoon, with expert guidance, we'll go on a foray and practice our identification skills and more.



Heidi Herrmann is a farmer and owner of Strong Arm Farm in Healdsburg. She teaches Sustainable Agriculture at Santa Rosa Junior College and vends at the Sebastopol and Healdsburg farmer's markets. Heidi is an avid seaweed harvester and the only legal commercial seaweed harvester in Sonoma County.

Special event fees apply; \$40 full day including lecture and field work, or \$15 lecture only (plus California State Parks \$8 entrance fee per car). Please check our [Events](#) page for updates.

SAVE THE DATE!



ALL NATIVE ALASKAN DAY & SPRING CELEBRATION Saturday, May 17

A tribute to Native Alaskan influence at Ross, including a baidarka (kayak) race, Spring Celebration with [Russian House Kedry](#).

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 18th

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

Special event fees may apply. See 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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