



**FRIENDS
OF
CHINA
CAMP**

Newsletter

Winter 2016-2017

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The End of an Era: A Salute to Frank Quan



“It’s raining in Santa Venetia,” warned Frank’s brother Oly Quan. “It’s pouring in downtown San Rafael,” reported another guest. Undeterred, guests arrived by the carful to celebrate the life of Frank Quan, who passed away on August 15, 2016

The ceremony commenced under sunny skies with Chinese drummers, followed by a welcome from FOCC Executive Director Martin Lowenstein. The Lion dancers then took over the deck, creating a celebratory atmosphere. Next the mood lovingly changed to somber as representatives from the U.S. Navy played Taps and ceremonially folded an American flag, which was then presented it to Frank Quan’s sister, Bertha.

Speakers paying tribute to Frank Quan, reminiscing about him and his family were: Congressman Jared Huffman, Assemblymember Marc Levine, County Supervisor Damon Connolly, California State Parks District Superintendent Danita Rodriguez, Elizabeth Goldstein of California State Parks Foundation, former Ranger Pat Robards, Jean Chan of the Marin Chinese Cultural Association, Andy Bachich of Andy's Local Market, Frank's brother Milton Quan, and Frank's dear friend and FOCC board member John Muir. The speakers were followed by a beautiful Chinese buffet, music of the 40s (Frank's favorite) and a light sprinkle of rain.

The event was a fine tribute, from drummers to dancers to remembrances to a fabulous dim sum feast. Frank we miss you.

Special thanks to all who attended and shared their stories, to all who organized and orchestrated the event and to our donors, particularly Marin Chinese Cultural Association and California State Parks Foundation.

For more photos, [click here](#).

It Looks Like a Trail, but Maybe Not

Once the purview of only a few, today trails are enjoyed by the masses. One of the biggest challenges park managers encounter with heavy public use is the casual creation of "volunteer trails." A volunteer trail, also known as a "social trail," is a trail that has been developed by park users, usually as a result of people hiking off an official trail.

The very nature of a volunteer trail - that it evolves over time due to repeated use - means that it is popular with the public. However, volunteer trails can significantly impact a park's natural and cultural resources. Sensitive cultural sites such as middens can be trampled and dispersed, and native plants and animals can be driven from an area due to the stress of frequent disturbance. Volunteer trails can also pose public safety concerns. [READ MORE.](#)

Volunteer Russ Young

I have hiked and biked the China Camp trails for the past 20 years and have volunteered at the park in limited various capacities over those years. Most recently, due to the FOCC and their wonderful organization efforts, I now volunteer as a member of the Trail Ambassadors. Trail Ambassadors are the “eyes and ears” of the park looking out for problem issues, maintenance and repair items. In addition, Trail Ambassadors welcome park visitors by providing smiles and assistance, maps and directions as requested.

Since China Camp is my other back yard, I also join in on the trail work day that is scheduled just about once every month. Overall, volunteering at the park along with the FOCC is and has been a very gratifying “give back” experience for me. I encourage all park visitors to donate a few hours of your time to the park and volunteer. Try it, it’s a great “feel good” experience!



Bring Your New Year’s Resolutions, Your Energy and Your Team Spirit



Our next China Camp Champion trail work day will be on Saturday, January 28, from 9AM to 3PM. Lunch is included and limited free camping is offered. Please join us to repair some of the trail damage from the recent storms. To participate we ask that you register through [CalParks](#). This helps us plan for tools, supplies and, of course, food. Once you have registered, you will receive an email from CalParks with the details about where to meet, what to bring, etc.

Hope you can join us!



With the rains and longer days the spring wildflowers will make their appearance. Here are just 4 of many early bloomers that you may see.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Village Museum Talk: Amphibians

January 21 - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Park Champion Volunteer Work Day

January 28 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Village Museum Talk: Mushrooms

February 18 - 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



WHO ARE WE?

We are volunteers who operate China Camp State Park.

Despite the name, China Camp State Park is neither operated nor supported by the State of California. Park operations are funded entirely from your fees and tax-deductible donations to Friends of China Camp, Inc., a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation. All fees collected at China Camp State Park stay within FOCC for use in operating the park; no fees go to Sacramento.

With your donations, plus thousands of hours of volunteer support, FOCC continues to keep facilities open and in good repair, maintain the trails, provide educational programs in natural history and cultural history, and pay for rangers, park aides, and maintenance workers.

For more information about the partnership between FOCC and California State DPR, [click here](#).

How You Can Help

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