



Newsletter

Spring 2017

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Welcome Sheila Coll, FOCC Program Director

We are pleased to welcome Sheila Coll as our new Program Director of Friends of China Camp. Sheila will be managing volunteer coordination, events, social media, and educational programming in addition to supporting fundraising efforts within the park.

Sheila has been working with State Parks for over half a decade and during that time her work has focused on expanding park accessibility among local underserved youth and families within the Bay Area. Sheila holds two Bachelor's degrees from the University of California, Santa Cruz in Environmental Studies and Art. In her spare time Sheila likes to play her ukulele and go for long hikes along the coast.

Sheila is looking forward to contributing to Friends of China Camp's dynamic programs and events in the year ahead. If you would like to contact Sheila, she can be reached at scoll@friendsofchinacamp.org



First Annual Volunteer Appreciation Day

On a beautiful sunny Sunday on June 25th, 2017, Friends of China Camp held its first ever **Volunteer Appreciation Day** at Miwok Meadows picnic area. Over 50 volunteers, park supporters, and their friends and family came out to enjoy delicious food, good company, and a bit of entertainment.

The bountiful lunch spread included sumptuous hamburger sliders, Chinese chicken salad, and plump burritos graciously donated by the Range Cafe and Chipotle. If that weren't enough, Lagunitas Brewing and the North Coast Brewing Co. generously gifted a bounty of tasty suds to wash down the lunch fare.

Event speakers included the FOCC Executive Director Martin Lowenstein, Board Chairman Ed Lai, Program Director Sheila Coll, cultural history volunteer lead Helen Stichter and trail crew lead Ed Westbrook. A special guest speaker appearance was made by park founder and visitor center volunteer Louise Lipsey.

The event ended with a stimulating game of park trivia and a raffle. A lucky few won raffle prizes which included two donated REI trail backpacks, two cases of Acme beer, and local organic wine.

The picnic was a great success and FOCC looks forward to continue it as an annual event for years to come. Many thanks to our donors, and most of all to our brilliant and steadfast volunteers who have kept this park alive and thriving for so many years!

What is iNaturalist? And How is China Camp Involved?



Explore - Learn - Record

iNaturalist provides a place to record and organize nature findings, meet other nature enthusiasts, and learn about the natural world. It encourages the participation of a wide variety of nature enthusiasts, including, but not exclusive to, hikers, hunters, birders, beach combers, mushroom foragers, park rangers, ecologists, and fishermen. Through connecting these different perceptions and expertise of the natural world, iNaturalist hopes to create extensive community awareness of local biodiversity and promote further exploration of local environments. -From the [iNaturalist website](#).

If you have a cell phone or tablet, you can participate. It's simple: just download the iNaturalist app to your phone or tablet; set up an account; take a photo; categorize your observation, e.g. butterfly, animal track, wild flower, nest, etc.; record additional information such as the date and time seen and location of observation (in most cases this is done by your phone or tablet) and then submit your observation.

Every observation with one or more photos, coordinates and dates, gets automatically placed in the "Needs ID" category so people who are looking for observations to identify will find them. Observations without those three things are not eligible for "Research Grade" status and thus get placed in the "Casual" category, since identifiers probably won't be able to help if there's no photo or location. Photos should be close up to get detail, include multiple angles (head and body, flower and leaf, etc). and be clear.

For more about the history and participation of iNaturalist, [click here](#).

To learn more, join us for a Village Talk on Reptiles and Amphibians and the use of iNaturalist to help with identification.

Saturday, July 15, 6PM - 7PM at China Camp State Park Village

FOCC Members -- Free Admission

General Public -- \$5 Admission

Space is limited and reservations are required.

To reserve, send email to:

chinacamp.programs@gmail.com

Include your name and the number of seats you need.

We will reply to confirm your reservation.



And You Thought only Turkeys had Wattles

Join us for another day of rebuilding a section of Shoreline Trail on **July 22 from 9AM - 3PM**. Lunch is included. Limited free camping is offered to registered volunteers. To register, sign up with [CalParks](#).

The work involves removal of plant matter from the trail tread, removal and replacing split rail fencing, excavating, grating and compacting the trail tread, placing and staking of straw wattles. The work is moderately strenuous and is a great substitute for a workout at the fitness center or a sweaty bike ride.

Two Yummy Ways to Support Your Park

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

There is no better way to end a summer day than with hot pizza and a cold beverage, right? Well this July you can eat pizza *and* support your local park. Patxi's Pizza in Greenbrae will donate 10% of their sales to Friends of China Camp (which includes dine-in and carry-out orders). Save the date, bring your friends and enjoy a pizza!

Patxis Pizza
340 Bon Air Center,
Greenbrae, CA 94904
Open 11am-10pm



Thursday, July 27, 2017



Chipotle restaurants has generously offered to donate 50% of their sales across the state to the [California State Parks Foundation](#) on Thursday, July 27. If there's a Chipotle near you, please consider eating lunch or dinner (or both!) there with friends and family and **tell the cashier you want to support the California State Parks Foundation**. Visit the [CalParks website](#) for more information. [Click here to find a Chipotle restaurant near you](#). Online orders count, too - but you have to choose the "pay in-store" option and tell the cashier before paying for your order to count toward the fundraiser.



Shoreline Trail Closure - Update

In the previous newsletter, we reported that we were waiting for approval of a Project Evaluation Form (PEF) from the State before we could begin the repair of Shoreline Trail. We have good news. The PEF has been approved. The next steps are to evaluate possible involvement of FEMA.

Like you, FOCC is frustrated by the length of time it take to go through the government processes. China Camp is a state park and as operators, we are obligated to comply with the State regulations. As soon as these last steps are resolved, the repair work will begin. In the mean time, there are many ways you can help.

RESPECT the closure signs
VOLUNTEER to help use make the needed repairs
DONATE to help us with the cost

Remember, this park receives no funds from the state and all expenses are the responsibility of the member-supported Friends of China Camp. Repairs will be done by volunteers and by the California Conservation Corps (CCC). Costs include large equipment rental and labor provided

by the CCC. It is estimated that we will need approximately 350 tons of rock and gravel for the repair. Thank you for understanding.



Pacific Sun Newspaper recently published the winners of its Best of Marin 2017 contest. China Camp State Park won Best of Marin 2017 in two categories:

1. Best Bike Route/Trail
2. Best Park/Open Space

Congratulations to FOCC!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Village Talk: Reptiles and Amphibians

July 15 - 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Pizza at Paxti in Greenbrea to benefit FOCC

July 19 - 11:00 am - 10:00 pm

Champion Work Day

July 22 - 9:00 am - 3:00 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 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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