



**FRIENDS
OF
CHINA
CAMP**

Newsletter

Spring 2018

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In this edition of the Friends of China Camp Newsletter:

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**Spring has sprung.
The flowers are blooming
and so is FOCC.**

Onward!

Note from the Chair

After four years of late nights and early mornings, Ed Lai has decided to step down from his role as the Friends of China Camp Board Chair. He will take over Treasurer duties from Ernie Stanton who will continue on the Board. Many thanks to Ed and Ernie for their dedicated service, we couldn't have done it without them. John Muir is the new Vice-Chair and Joyce Abrams continues as Board Secretary.

We look forward to working with you in 2018 to keep your park thriving. Toward that end, we will be expanding educational programs, continuing our volunteer efforts to repair and improve trails and infrastructure, and seeking new avenues for community input. Let us hear from you!

Steve Deering
Board Chair
Friends of China Camp



The Growing FOCC Family

On December 1, 2017 Friends of China Camp hired three more employees, David Schildt, David Walker and Scott Griggs. Two of the “new hires,” David Schildt and David Walker, are familiar faces. They have been working at China Camp as employees for the CA Department of Parks & Recreation. Now they work directly for FOCC. The third employee is Scott Griggs who comes to FOCC from Home Depot. His focus is maintenance in the park.

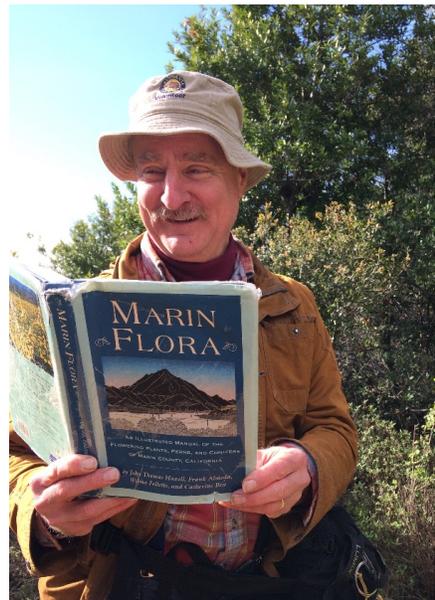
Please join FOCC in welcoming all three park aides to the FOCC family. They join our Executive Director, Martin Lowenstein, and our Program Director, Sheila Coll.



Experience the Park with Volunteer, Harold Hirsch

If you want to really get to know the park in a meaningful way, do yourself a favor and go on one of FOCC’s Saturday hikes. When you arrive at the predetermined meeting spot, look for the guy with the California State Parks Volunteer bucket hat, suspenders, and unforgettably grand smile. That’s Harold Hirsch. He is an encyclopedia of knowledge ranging from astronomy down to the scientific names of local plant species (including which ones are tasty to eat, and which ones are lethal with just a nibble).

A hike with Harold is not just a hike, but an experience. One may pick up an ordinary redwood cone; where most people would just see the reproductive part of a redwood tree, Harold sees so much more. He sees a representation of the complex genetic journey of billions of species since the beginning of life on earth. [READ MORE.](#)



High Fives!

Heroes

Thank you **Bartlett Tree Experts** for your excellent pro bono clearing of a large tree

blocking one of our popular trails.

Thank you **Mike Coll** for your pro bono work creating a three-minute volunteerism video and a five-minute marketing video for the park.

Thank you **QuarryHouse, Inc.** for offering a \$5000 \$-for-\$ challenge, which was matched weeks before the end date. The total donations was a wonderful \$18,511.

Donations like these are an inspiration to all of us and make it possible for FOCC to continue to operate and maintain our special Park.



We Have a Winner!

This year FOCC gave away a complimentary annual pass to the first person to come to the Visitor Center in the year 2018. Our winner is Sebastian Beca, a bike enthusiast from Sausalito. Sebastian was both surprised and appreciative and plans to take advantage of his gift.

Our Visitor Center shares space with the Ranger Station and is located across the road from Bullhead Flat. It is only staffed part time. We are looking to extend the hours with additional volunteer staff. If you are interested in joining our Visitor Center team to welcome people to the park and provide basic information, please join us. [Click here](#) to let us know you're interested.

The Visitor Center is packed full of wonderful displays, photographs and information that can make your visit more enjoyable.



Engaged!

On the pier at China Camp Village, Taylor O'Connor and Derek Nelson became engaged. Derek's children Phoenix and Saylor were included in the special occasion. FOCC wishes them a wonderful life together.



Stewardship

Protect Your Home from Wildfires

Bay Area State Parks and the Wildland Urban Interface

Do you live on property that is directly adjacent to State Park Land? If yes, then you live within a Wildland–Urban Interface (WUI), which refers to the zone of transition between unoccupied land (in this case State Park land) and human development. These lands and communities adjacent to and surrounded by wildlands are at risk of wildfires.



What you can do to protect your residence as a State Parks Neighbor.

If you live within the WUI there are several things you need to know:

- It is every homeowner's individual responsibility to maintain defensible space around their property to protect it from wildfires. Defensible space and hardening your home (i.e., making your home less ignitable) will dramatically increase the chance of your house surviving a wildfire and help protect firefighters.
- Contact your [local Fire Agency](#) to obtain Home Hardening and Defensible Space guidelines for your property and ensure your property meets those guidelines.
- As a State Parks neighbor, you or your contractor can conduct vegetation work in the State Park through our [Boundary Vegetation Modification Right of Entry \(BVMROE\) Permit process](#).

What FOCC is doing for you.

FOCC is aware of the community's concerns, particularly in light of recent woodland fires. We are currently engaged in discussions with Marin County Fire and the Department of Parks and Recreation to coordinate a joint plan of responsibility. We will keep you informed. While we work on this, please [register for Alert Marin Emergency Notification](#).

Data Waiting to be Discovered

Have you ever wondered what the researchers in the park are doing? Read on. The following are just some of the studies that are being conducted in your back yard, China Camp State Park. The fact that they are conducting their research here says volumes about the importance of our little piece of the ecosystem and the importance of sustainable environmental practices.

The dynamics and transmission of tick-borne pathogens: A student from the SFSU Swei lab is collecting ticks, *Ixodes pacificus*, to study the abundance, seasonality, and prevalence of infection with the Lyme Disease spirochete, *Borrelia burgdorferi*. Ticks are collected by dragging a one square [READ MORE](#).

Seed collection in the tidal marsh upland ecotone: Staff from the Save the Bay nursery will be manually collecting limited amounts of seed and vegetative material from the tidal marsh upland ecotone for the purposes of propagating plants for restoration projects within this ecotone throughout the SF Bay Estuary.

Sediment monitoring: The National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) collects sediment (aka, mud) and monitors data annually during fall/winter. They are measuring the gradual buildup of mud on the marsh, which thus far has been occurring at the same rate as local sea-level rise (about 1-2 mm/yr). [READ MORE.](#)

Status, distribution and trends of tidal marsh-dependent birds: The work being done by Point Blue is part of a 15+ yearlong San Francisco Estuary-wide study of the status, distribution, and trends of tidal marsh-dependent birds. [READ MORE.](#)

Note, all studies must be permitted. As part of the State Park Scientific Collection Permit review process, natural, cultural and public safety staff review all components of the submitted research permit. If any component is inconsistent with the state park's mission, it will be restricted or prohibited.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Champion Trail Work Day
March 24, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Saturday Morning Hike
March 24 9:30 am - 11:30 am

Book Club in the Park
March 24, 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Full Moon Hike
March 30, 6:00 - 8:30 pm

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



How You Can Help

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