



**FRIENDS
OF
CHINA
CAMP**

Newsletter

Fall 2018

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Then and Now

Note from the Chair

Wondering About the Tugs?

Have you ever wondered about the two tug boats anchored off of Bullhead Flat? Unfortunately, they have been abandoned and are now awaiting removal. The Marin County Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction over the craft and is seeking state funds for salvage. The boats are checked regularly for secure mooring and leakage by the Sheriff's Marine Division. We will keep you posted.

Steve Deering, Board Chair
Friends of China Camp



Heritage Day - A Tribute with Smiles

**China Camp's 150th Anniversary
Heritage Day 2018**



On September 22nd, the last day of summer, a large crowd gathered at China Camp Village eagerly awaiting what the 2018 Heritage Day Festival would deliver.

Friends of China Camp Board Chair Steve Deering and Executive Director Martin Lowenstein began the event by welcoming the audience to celebrate the 150th anniversary of China Camp Village.

A century and a half ago Chinese shrimpers began to settle along the San Pablo Shoreline. A special exhibit was created to honor the Quan family, the last Chinese shrimpers to have lived at China Camp. Happily, the Quan family was present at the festival.



Among the dignitaries that participated in the festivities were, **State Assemblymember Marc Levine**, **State Senator Mike McGuire**, **Marin County Supervisor Damon Connolly** and Field Representative Amy Schroeder representing **US Congressman Jared Huffman**. We thank them for their support and recognition.



Resonant drumming commenced the Marin Chinese Cultural Association (MCCA) Lion dance. Purple Silk Chinese Youth Orchestra made a first time appearance at Heritage Day, about forty children played a spectrum of traditional Chinese instruments. The lineup also included MCCA's interactive tai chi class and 10,000 Victories Martial Arts school's impressive kung fu demonstration. [READ MORE...](#)

See the [FOCC Gallery](#) for photos of the event.

Special People - Donors

Donors Treated to Tidal Marsh Presentation
Our Park is 1 of 29 National Estuarine Preserve



On a beautiful Saturday morning in September, Bullet Hill Members (\$240 and above) attended a Donor Appreciation Breakfast at the China Camp Village cafe, and enjoyed their waterside meal under glorious skies.

Attendees were treated to an informative "state of the park" update by Executive Director Martin Lowenstein, followed by an educational talk given by Mike Vasey, Executive Director of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (SF

Bay NERR), on the long-term monitoring of emergent vegetation in the China Camp tidal marsh. Vasey shared thoughts on how to preserve and enhance the existing marsh in the face of sea level rise. The research may be instrumental in securing funds for restoring marshes that have been lost to development over the last century.

The San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve's mission is to improve understanding and stewardship of the estuary, with a broader relevance to the ecosystems beyond the Golden Gate. The tidal marshes at China Camp and Rush Creek provide research sites as well as classrooms for scientists, teachers and land managers.

You can learn more about the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve at <http://www.sfbaynerr.org>.

Our New Truck FOCC Purchases 2017 Ford F-350 Truck



FOCC has purchased a new 2017 Ford F-350 4x4 truck for maintenance in the park. After acquiring a Toyota Tacoma last year, it became clear that FOCC needed a second truck of greater capacity to haul gravel, lumber, and heavy equipment.

Thanks to the generosity of Jeff Craemer, who is a devoted friend of the park, FOCC was able to purchase the white F-350. The truck was already put to good use to prepare for Heritage Day, and the truck will soon be outfitted with a dumper trailer.

Thank you, Jeff, for making FOCC's dream a reality!

The Park's Heart and Sole - Volunteers

China Camp's Campground Ambassadors Fred Neubauer & John Anderson



If you camp at China Camp Back Ranch campground during the summer, chances are you will be welcomed by these two smiling faces, and if so, you can rest assured you are in good hands. Over the past 5 years, John Anderson (right) and Fred Neubauer (left) have been exceptional ambassadors to the park. They, along with their two rescue chihuahuas, Ike and Tina, have welcomed thousands of visitors from all over the world to China Camp State Park.

It is almost impossible to talk with John and Fred without smiling, if not descending into laughter. Take for example, their ongoing feud with raccoons that “lounges” in the outdoor seating at night, perpetually scheming up new ways to wreak havoc in the yard and drink from the champagne bottle-sized hummingbird feeder that hangs from their awning.

[READ MORE...](#)

Village Garden Needs Someone Like You Help Wanted



There, I said it! My name is well...in fact, I am known as the **China Camp Historical Garden** and I am asking for your help. You see, with all the other pressing projects in the park over the past few years, I have been overlooked and now need some TLC.

It's embarrassing when visitors take pictures of me and I no longer look like the vibrant garden of my youth. So, I've decided to advertise for a few good, down-to-earth volunteers who can help me get myself together.

I don't have any money, but can offer a great working environment, flexible hours, garden tools, and...everything we produce belongs to you! I'm enclosing a recent picture of myself so you will recognize me when we meet at China Camp Village.

So, what do you think? Will you volunteer to be a big part of a small garden? I don't have a phone or e-mail, but you can sign up through my FOCC friends at chinacamp.programs@gmail.com or (415) 456-0766.

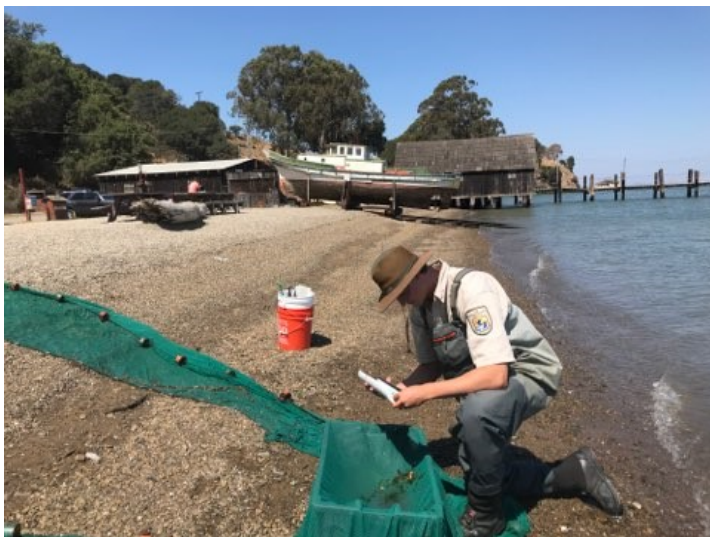
Thanks, I'm really looking forward to this!

Accolades to the Trail Maintenance Team

The FOCC's ongoing work to maintain and improve China Camp's trails did not go unnoticed at this year's Tamalpa Club's footrace, which began and finished on the Shoreline Trail near Miwok Meadows. Sue Kreusch, Captain of the Tamalpa Club's Women's racing teams, remarked, "Quite a few runners told us how impressed they were with the condition of the trails this year, as compared to past years. The runners appreciated the notably smoother and less rutted trail surfaces. This year's race was definitely safer because the trails were in such good shape."

Something is Fishy at China Camp

Environmental Factors and Fish Research Helps to Protect Our Park's Habitat



Have you ever been enjoying the scenic views at China Camp and noticed people dressed in brown uniforms hauling around a big net and wondered what they were doing?

Who we are

We work for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is a federal agency dedicated to conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. More specifically, we work for the Delta

Juvenile Fish Monitoring Program stationed at Lodi, California. As part of the program, we conduct fish monitoring to help the management of juvenile Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and other native and non-native species throughout the San Francisco Bay-Delta Ecosystem.

What we do at China Camp

Starting in 1997, the Delta Juvenile Fish Monitoring Program expanded its sampling program to include locations within the San Pablo and San Francisco Bays. At China Camp we collect fish samples twice a month using a beach seine net. [READ MORE...](#)

Announcements

Annual Community Meeting

Please join us November 10 at 10:00 A.M. at the Peacock Gap Clubhouse for our annual meeting. We will be discussing FOCC 2018 accomplishments and plans for 2019 and beyond. Bring your questions and suggestions for improving park operations and programs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Full Moon Hike

October 24, 6:15pm - 7:30pm

Hikes with a Naturalist

October 7, 14, 21, and 28, 12:30 pm

Champion Work Day

October 14, 9:00am - 1:00pm

Books Under the Bower
October 28, 7:00pm - 8:00pm

[SEE ALL UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



HOW YOU CAN HELP

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