

## In this issue:

New Board Chair | Heritage Month | Park Manager Joins Team | Park Access Update | Volunteer Recognition | Fall Migration | Park Aides | Ghost Stories | Honoring Judy Ahern | Turtle Back Trail | Photo Contest | Wish List



## New Board Chair

**Welcome Arlin Weinberger**

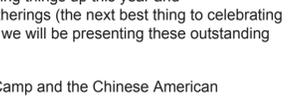
On July 1, 2020, Arlin Weinberger became the new Board Chair of Friends of China Camp. She succeeds Steve Deering who served for three years and is now Deputy Chair.

"I want to keep this wonderful park thriving," says Arlin about her new role. "I am very impressed with the work of volunteers and staff. I love this park!"

Arlin grew up in San Francisco, attended University of the Pacific, and then started her long-time career in corporate communications. With the exception of 13 years living in Toronto, Canada, Arlin has been a lifelong Bay Area resident—and not just any resident. Arlin stands out as an extremely active community member, serving on the boards of a multitude of local organizations that focus on preserving and managing Marin County's open space and land resources. Since moving to San Rafael in 2005, Arlin has served as board chair of Friends of Mt Tam, as a One Tam Partnership Ambassador, and as a board member of Marin Conservation League. She currently heads the California Alpine Club Foundation.

We are fortunate to have someone with Arlin's broad experience and devotion to parks and open space to lead us into the future. We enthusiastically welcome her to the FOCC team.

## Celebrate China Camp's Heritage Month



### Weekly programs online in October

October is Heritage Month at China Camp State Park. While our annual Heritage Day has traditionally been our largest event, we're switching things up this year and commemorating our heritage with five virtual gatherings (the next best thing to celebrating in person). Over the next few weeks in October, we will be presenting these outstanding programs online. Join us!

- October 2 @ 6pm: The History of China Camp and the Chinese American Diaspora. [Details](#)
- October 17 @ 6pm: An Evening with Milton Quan: Growing up in China Camp Village in the 1950s and '60s. [Details](#)
- October 18 @ 6pm: Indigenous Storytelling and Songs. [Details](#)
- October 25 @ 6pm: Miwok Cultural History and Interactive Crafts. [Details](#)
- October 25 @ 7pm: Book Club, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. [Details](#)



## Welcome to our first park manager

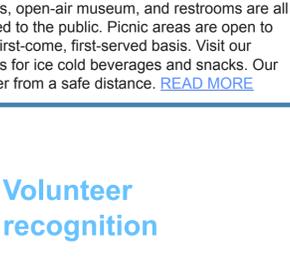
**Ian Nelson joins FOCC team**

Meet our first-ever FOCC Park Manager, Ian Nelson, a welcome addition to our staff. "As much as we have been able to accomplish to date, we have always felt that a park manager could bring better coordination and prioritization to our maintenance activities for both our professional staff and our enthusiastic volunteers," says FOCC Executive Director Martin Lowenstein. "Ian now fills that role."

Having worked at AutoDesk for 13 years, Ian brings a skill set that includes process and systems improvement and effective resource management. Wasting no time, Ian has already put these skills to good use, implementing helpful changes in how campers buy firewood, and simplifying the steps for renewing annual passes. "My intention is for FOCC to continually step up its game," notes Ian.

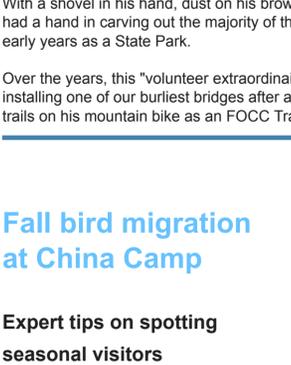
"Streamlining our operational processes is one of our highest priorities," notes Executive Director Lowenstein. "Ian's contributions are already making a difference." Welcome Ian!

## Latest news on park access



### New safety measures in place as park reopens

Despite statewide park closures due to COVID-19 and wildfires, Bay Area residents have continued to cool off at China Camp's beaches and to hike, run, and ride our scenic trails. Our campground, picnic areas, parking lots, trails, open-air museum, and restrooms are all open. China Camp's visitor center remains closed to the public. Picnic areas are open to small groups (12-person "social bubbles") on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit our historic cafe at China Camp Village on weekends for ice cold beverages and snacks. Our friendly volunteers will be there to take your order from a safe distance. [READ MORE](#)



## Volunteer recognition

**Meet our Trail Ambassador John Denigris**

With a shovel in his hand, dust on his brow, and a smile on his face, John Denigris has had a hand in carving out the majority of the trails in China Camp, especially during its early years as a State Park.

Over the years, this "volunteer extraordinaire" has pitched in on major efforts, including installing one of our burliest bridges over a major slide. Today, John deftly rides along the trails on his mountain bike as an FOCC Trail Ambassador. [READ MORE](#)

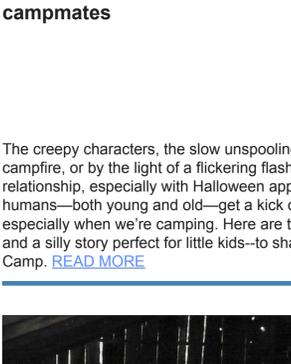
## Fall bird migration at China Camp



### Expert tips on spotting seasonal visitors

Remember when things were "normal," and jets zoomed across the sky, day and night? Air travel may have drastically decreased for humans in recent months, but it's just revving up for the original high-flyers, birds. Now is one of the best times to see a colorful array of birds at China Camp, as the annual fall migration goes into full swing.

To better understand China Camp's role in this yearly event, we turned to Jerry Coe, a former National Park Service ranger who has been immersed in bird watching and tracking for decades. Jerry regularly leads birding events at China Camp, such as our recent beginning birding class, conducted via Zoom with over 50 attendees. Here are Jerry's insights and tips on catching this year's fall migration. [READ MORE](#)



## Our summer park aides

### New park aides pitched in during ultra-busy summer season

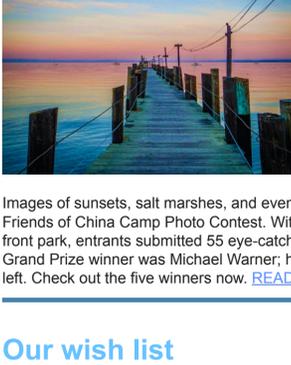
This summer, we hired two seasonal park aides to provide visitor services and help make the park an even better place to visit. Joining us in June was Magda Porter, who had just finished her first year at Cal Poly, where she majors in Plant Science. We also hired Caledonia Krieger, now a senior at San Rafael High School. [READ MORE](#)

## Campfire tales for a fall night



### Two tales to spook your campmates

The creepy characters, the slow unspooling of a dark tale—stories told around a dying campfire, or by the light of a flickering flashlight, might just be the ultimate love-hate relationship, especially with Halloween approaching. For some weird reason, lots of us humans—both young and old—get a kick out of telling tales and getting spooked, especially when we're camping. Here are two classic ghost stories—one ultra creepy tale and a silly story perfect for little kids—to share the next time you pitch your tent at China Camp. [READ MORE](#)

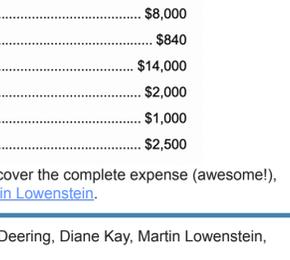


## Remembering Judy Ahern

**Cultural history volunteer for a dozen years**

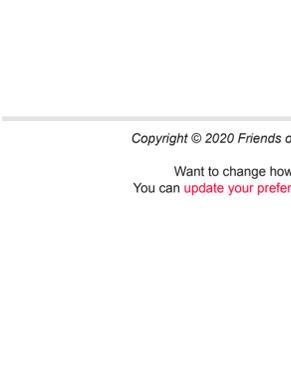
This summer, Friends of China Camp lost a valuable member of its volunteer team. On July 13, our wonderful cultural history volunteer, Judy Ahern, passed away. Judy had been a docent for the China Camp Museum for over 12 years. She thoroughly enjoyed volunteering at the park and happily filled in for other docents when needed. Judy enjoyed sharing the colorful history of the community that lived and worked in the village over a century ago. [READ MORE](#)

## Grand reopening for TurtleBack Trail



### Volunteers regrade and resurface our ADA-compliant trail

What do 85 tons of chocolate-colored crushed rock, 26 dusty volunteers, and one high school senior have in common? All played an important role in restoring China Camp's popular Turtle Back Trail this summer, making it a safe and smooth route for everyone, including people with limited mobility. Though the 3/4-mile marsh-hugging loop was originally designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Turtle Back was more than ready for a makeover. "It was rutted and no longer sloped properly due to years of erosion and rain runoff," says FOCC Executive Director Martin Lowenstein. "Now, Turtle Back is safe and beautiful." [READ MORE](#)



## Winning images from FOCC photo contest

**See who took home top prizes in first-ever online event**

Images of sunsets, salt marshes, and even a comet nabbed the prizes in our first-ever Friends of China Camp Photo Contest. With the goal of capturing the beauty of our bay-front park, entrants submitted 55 eye-catching images to Instagram this summer. The Grand Prize winner was Michael Warner; his beautiful image of our historic pier is shown at left. Check out the five winners now. [READ MORE](#)

## Our wish list

### If you'd like to help make our dreams come true

While donations of any size to Friends of China Camp are greatly appreciated, we thought we'd compile a specific list (with price tags) of some of the key items we'd love to put into use here at the park. Thanks for all you do to keep the park open and running for all! [DONATE NOW](#)

ITEM	COST
Toro tracked mud buggy.....	\$16,000
Torque wrench.....	\$75
Shop stools (2) .....	\$100
Mechanic's creeper .....	\$50
Fixed barbecues grills (3) .....	\$400
Picnic tables (10).....	\$2,000
Trash grabbers (24).....	\$840
Backhoe for Ditch Witch .....	\$14,000
Winch for Ford F-350.....	\$2,000
Trailer for Kubota utility vehicle .....	\$1,000
Tool cabinet.....	\$2,500

If you'd like to contribute to a particular item, or cover the complete expense (awesome!), please send an email to [Executive Director Martin Lowenstein](mailto:Executive Director Martin Lowenstein).

Contributors: Joyce Abrams, Sheila Coll, Steve Deering, Diane Kay, Martin Lowenstein, Harriot Manley, Helen Stichter

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

[DONATE](#)

[VOLUNTEER](#)

[BECOME A FRIEND](#)

Photo: Harriot Manley/FOCC

Copyright © 2020 Friends of China Camp. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)