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## Campground open!

### New rules in place as summer kicks off

Grab your tent and sleeping bag: Back Ranch Meadows Campground has reopened, and we're looking forward to welcoming you to sleep under the stars once again. We've spiffed up our sites and prepared enough firewood for everyone to enjoy a crackling campfire (we've even included recipes for delicious twists on s'mores at the end of this newsletter). For everyone's health and safety, new guidelines and restrictions will be in place, but nothing that will get in the way of your fun. [Read more...](#)



Photo: Arup Malakar/Flickr Creative Commons

## Spring Appeal surpasses every goal

### Special thanks from Executive Director Martin Lowenstein



Photo: Harriot Manley/FOCC

In challenging times like these, it's nice to get some good news. What we'd like to share isn't just good news; it's incredible news.

With road and facilities closures drastically cutting our visitation and revenue this spring, China Camp had begun taking austerity measures to see it through. Supporters like you heeded our call for help, making our annual Spring Appeal an extraordinary success. [Read more...](#)

## Win prizes in our first photo contest

### Post your favorite shots on Instagram starting July 1

Take an eye-catching image at China Camp and it could win you a prize. From July 1 through August 15, 2020, submit images to our inaugural photo contest. Winners will be announced via social media and email by Sept 1.

Grand prize is two nights camping, plus two annual passes and Friends of China Camp merchandise. Click [here](#) for more prizes and complete rules. Find out how to submit images now. [Read more...](#)



Photo: Harriot Manley/FOCC

## Shrimps, subs, and superstars

### Milton Quan shares stories of growing up at China Camp



Photo courtesy of Milton Quan

Ever wonder what it would be like to grow up in a site that's now a state park listed in the National Register of Historic Places? Milton Quan, now age 85, has this rare distinction.

Milt grew up in the heart of what is now called China Camp Village, in China Camp State Park. Growing up at "the Camp" yielded Milt a treasure trove of adventures in the 1940s and '50s, complete with movie stars and scary nights on the bay. [Read more...](#)

## Little mouse has a big fan in Bay Nature

### Meet the impossibly cute salt marsh harvest mouse

Whether it's nibbling on pickleweed or lapping from a pool of salty bay water, the tiny salt marsh harvest mouse gets the nod for being one of China Camp's most remarkable (and cutest) mammals. We discovered a fascinating article about this endangered mammal in one of our favorite publications, *Bay Nature*, the quarterly publication produced by the Berkeley-based Bay Nature Institute. [Read more...](#)



Photo: U.S. Geological Survey

## Job opening: China Camp Park Manager

### Applications being accepted now

We have a park management job opportunity here at China Camp. If you are organized, resourceful, and have strong project-management and communication skills, consider working for Friends of China Camp as the Park Manager.



Photo: Harriot Manley/FOCC

Each day brings new and diverse responsibilities, be it overseeing day-to-day operations of the park, coordinating volunteers, handling basic trail maintenance, or working with the State and other outside agencies. All the while you'll be working in the heart of our beautiful bay-hugging park. If this sounds like a good fit for you, please send your resume to Friends of China Camp Executive Director Martin Lowenstein at [mloenstein@friendsofchinacamp.org](mailto:mloenstein@friendsofchinacamp.org).

## Sweet-sticky-so-good s'mores

### Try three twists on a campfire classic

They're gooey; they're sticky; they're so darn good that they just might be the reason some of us go camping in the first place.

They're s'mores, those decadently delicious campfire confections made by sandwiching toasted marshmallows and pieces of chocolate bar between two crunchy graham crackers. Find out three new ways to jazz up these campground favorites. [Read more...](#)

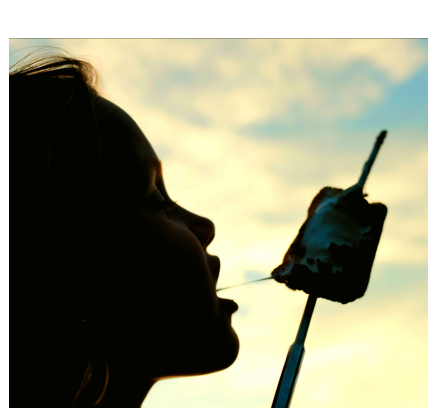


Photo: S. Fréchette/Flickr Creative Commons

## Tiny dragons

### Western fence lizards put on a summertime show



Photo: Harriot Manley/FOCC

Sit still on a warm summer afternoon at China Camp, and you'll likely find yourself in the middle of a miniature battlefield straight out of *Game of Thrones*, with pint-size dragons skittering across the dusty earth and stone.

Behold the Western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), looking every bit as fierce (albeit on a Lilliputian scale) as the giant dragons swirling over the Seven Kingdoms. [Read more...](#)

## Searching for dandies in the mud

### Point Blue biologist Megan Elrod sheds light on our elusive rails

Try as you might, as many avid birders do, you'll probably have a tough time tracking down a Ridgway's rail. But biologist Megan Elrod of Point Blue in Petaluma has spent many marshy hours looking for these elusive endangered specials, as well as black rails and other birds that live in China Camp's thriving wetland habitat.

Learn what Megan and others with Point Blue, which has been studying China Camp's wetlands since 1996, have discovered about our park's critically important wetland ecosystem, especially when it comes to rails. [Read more...](#)



Photo: A. Maizlish/Flickr Creative Commons

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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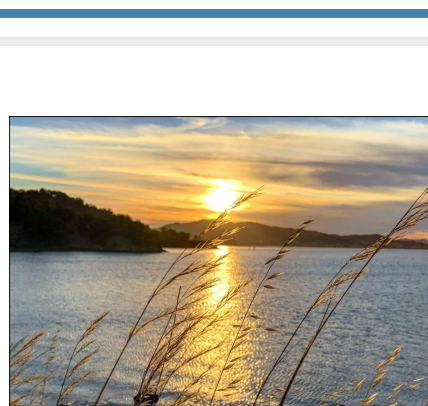


Photo: Harriot Manley/FOCC