

Quarterly Newsletter of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Spring 2008

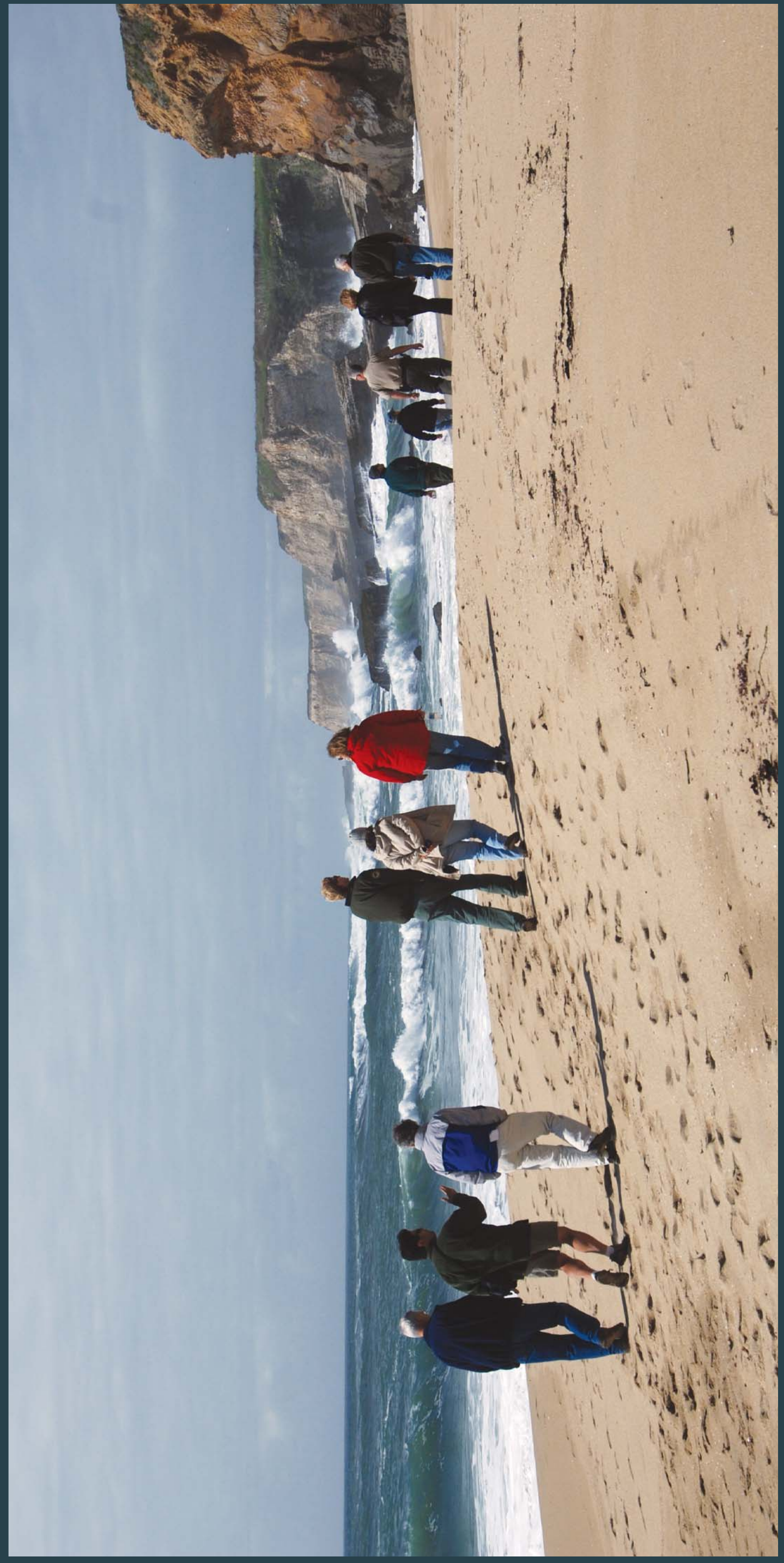
# ParkViews

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*Friends Board Members hike along Yellowbank Beach, North Coast Dairy Properties, as part of a familiarization tour led by Victor Roth of State Parks. Read more about Victor on page 3. Photo by Don Nielsen.*



THAT'S MY PARK  
ENJOY LEARN GIVE BACK



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# Advocacy

*Together, we make the difference.*

**R**ECENTLY YOU, OUR MEMBERS, let Friends know in no uncertain terms that our role as Advocates on behalf of our local State Parks, and the State Parks system as a whole are a valuable part of our mission. We asked you to support our advocacy efforts, and the response was overwhelming. Within the first week following our letter to the membership, 81 people responded that they wanted their voices to be heard. Thank you for this clear directive. We've heard, and we're working on it!

As an example of our efforts, on April 7, Friends Board Member Don Nielsen woke up in the wee small hours of the morning to drive our van full of advocates to Sacramento. We'd like to thank Don for getting our folks up and back safely. Our advocates, representing the voices of our membership, joined our partners, the California State Parks Foundation, at their 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Park Advocacy Day. More than 250 advocates stormed the Capitol, meeting with representatives from up and down the state to lobby for our State Parks. Thank you to all of our advocates who took the time to make the trip. At noon, several speakers, including our own Randy Widera, took part in a press conference attended by an estimated 350 people. The energy generated by these Park Lovers was incredible, and carried the advocates into their afternoon meetings.

We all know that there are many complex and difficult issues facing parks today, including draconian budget cuts and seemingly endless threats to the parks themselves, and these messages were reinforced on Park Advocacy Day. Legacy Award Winning Senator Christine Kehoe announced that the California State Assembly Committee on Natural Resources will hold a hearing on May 13 to hear public testimony regarding the budget issue. Friends will be redoubling our advocacy efforts so that we can take a clear message to the legislature at that hearing. Please take a moment to sign the letter enclosed in this issue of *ParkViews* and return it to Friends. We will be glad to deliver it to the hearing on the 13<sup>th</sup> for you.

In his remarks on Advocacy Day, Jack O'Connell, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, pointed out that the educational opportunities presented by State Parks are a tremendous educational value. He went so far as to say that State Parks and Education in California are "inextricably linked." We here at Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks agree with him. In fact, the funding that Friends provides here in Santa Cruz County has created a network of education and interpretive programs that is unrivaled in the state. We here at Friends feel that our work in education is critical for the next generation.

We need your help to continue our efforts. Please show your support by continuing to visit our parks, and enjoy our programs.

In closing, Mr. O'Connell said that it was not enough merely to preserve the Parks for the current and future generations; that the Parks must be enhanced for those future generations. We at Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks couldn't agree with him more. This is our mission, every day of the year. Thank you for being with us, every step of the way. Together, we make the difference.

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Continues page 7

*How many people do you know who could say this:  
"I have never stayed awake at night, wondering  
what I should be doing with my life."?*

This is a quote from Victor Roth, longtime employee of California Department of Parks and Recreation. Victor, who self-admittedly wears many hats in his position as a public land management specialist in the Santa Cruz District, has always had a passion for resource conservation. This must have been the beacon that lighted the way in his life, through education, volunteerism, traveling, and ultimately career.

Victor was born and raised in the East Bay. He attended the University of Oregon, receiving a B.A. in Social Sciences. He then joined the Peace Corps, spending two years in Venezuela, assisting an Andes municipality with site location studies for projects like schools and health clinics. Fluent in Spanish, Victor traveled throughout South America for six months following Peace Corps.

Upon his return to the U.S., Victor entered the graduate program in planning at the College of Environmental Design, U.C. Berkeley.

Now is the point where all the training and the focus come together to manifest in a vocation of environmental stewardship.

Immediately upon completion of his Master's degree, Victor was hired to work for the California Coastal Commission in its first decade. Victor was on board with this agency for nine years and became actively familiar with the unique natural attributes of our local coastline and the general vicinity. So when you feel gratitude for our pristine, undeveloped coastline, think Victor.

Next Victor joined the California State Park System, where he has been employed for twenty years. During that time, his role evolved into being the man in the know for all land acquisitions for the State Parks in the Santa Cruz District. So when you enjoy hiking or biking acres of Grey Whale Ranch and other recent state park acquisitions, think Victor.

Victor also works with the local farmers who lease state-owned land. The brussel sprout fields you see north of town are actually owned by State Parks. "It's a little-known fact," Victor remarks, "that State Parks is the largest lessor of agricultural land in this area. Agriculture is at the heart of the county and State Parks is diligent in nurturing relationships with the farming community to allow a way of life to continue. This is a real success story."



Another huge aspect of Victor's responsibilities includes land pre-acquisition activities. "This is a very rewarding component of my job," Victor comments. The recent purchase of Coast Dairies properties is an example.

Victor's job does not stop once the property is acquired, however. Then he must deal with property management issues such as trespass, right-of-way, and easements, as well as the preservation and protection of our unique environment. "This is a biological hot spot," comments Victor. "We have a large number of rare and endangered plant and animal species that we are serious about protecting."

In this role, Victor supervises a cadre of state park specialists, including archaeologists to biologists. He greatly appreciates their efforts, as well as associations like Friends and all the volunteers. "It is the dedication of State Park professionals, the assistance of groups like Friends, and the efforts of citizen volunteers that create a winning combination to support and protect the environment of the Santa Cruz area. Without all this help, State Parks could not function, especially now with decreased funding and ever-increasing challenges."

Victor describes himself as having "a well-developed sense of values and goals coupled with dogged perseverance." Obviously those qualities have served him well over the years. Not only have they served him, they have served us, the population which is so privileged to live among this incredible meeting of shoreline and magnificent redwood forests. Thank you, Victor.

~Marianne Wyllie

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# ParkViews Calendar

## June

### 7 Seacliff State Beach

**15th Annual Festival at the Cement Ship**  
11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Celebrate the unique history of the WW1 Concrete Ship Palo Alto, the natural wonders of Seacliff's fossil beds, and the many animals that call the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary their home. Enjoy music, fun and food. Experience the park's history through arts, crafts, games and stories. Make a kite to fly on the beach. Visit educational booths to learn about our animal friends. Find the perfect gift in our Park Store or at one of the vendors' booths. Seacliff State Beach is located off Highway 1 in Aptos. From Santa Cruz, take Highway 1 south to the State Park Drive exit. For more information, please call (831)685-6444.

## July

### 4 Wilder Ranch State Park

**Old-fashioned Independence Day**  
11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Visit Wilder Ranch's historic cultural preserve and take a step back in time 100 years ago as you participate in a 1908-style Independence Day celebration including a noon family parade, games, children's crafts area, live big-band music, living history demonstrations, historic speeches and flag-raising. Food and drink available for sale, or bring a picnic lunch. The park is located 2 miles north of Santa Cruz on the coast side of Highway 1. For more information, please call (831)426-0505.

## September

### 13 Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park

**Mission Adobe Day**  
NOON TO 4:00 P.M.

This adobe structure was built by Native American labor during the waning days of Mission Santa Cruz's existence. Designed as native worker "family apartments," it is the only original of its kind in California today. This event specializes in sharing the native ways and new Spanish skills practiced at this site, and include crafts, outdoor cooking, equipment demonstrations and living history activities. This free admission event is just a block from downtown Santa Cruz on School Street off of the Mission Plaza. For more information, please call (831)425-5849.

## October

### 12 Natural Bridges State Beach

**Welcome Back Monarchs Day**  
10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Join us for this joyful, monarch-filled day and welcome the monarchs back to this park, their overwintering habitat. Participate in numerous activities including arts & crafts, active games for kids, music by the 5M's (the mostly mediocre musical monarch mariposas), hand-cranked "monarch" ice cream (pumpkin), information and action booths as well as more about monarch butterflies and how-to's for a butterfly garden. The park is located at the end of West Cliff Drive at the north end of Santa Cruz. For more information, please call (831)423-4609.

### 25 Wilder Ranch State Park

**Heritage Harvest Festival**  
11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Celebrate: the harvest is in! See tractor, draft horse and other living history demonstrations, listen to music, do crafts, try your hand at harvest-time activities. Food available for sale, or bring a picnic lunch. The park is located 2 miles north of Santa Cruz on the coast side of Highway 1. For more information, please call (831)426-0505.

## November

### 15 Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park

**136th Anniversary Celebration**  
FESTIVITIES ALL DAY WITH LIGHTING  
FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M.

California State Parks, Pigeon Point Hostel, and the United States Coast Guard will commemorate the 136th Anniversary of the first lighting of Pigeon Point Lighthouse. This annual event features an open house in the historic fog signal building from 10AM until 7PM. The highlight of the evening is from 6-8PM when the historic lighthouse's four-ton Fresnel Lens with its 1,008 prisms lights up the sky. New exhibits in the 1899 Fog Signal Building will feature lighthouse history, videos, marine mammals, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Pigeon Point Light Station State Historic Park is located between San Francisco and Santa Cruz on Highway 1, about 50 miles south of San Francisco, or 25 miles north of Santa Cruz. For more information, please call (650)879-2120 Fri.-Sun.

## December

### 13 Wilder Ranch State Park

**Ranch Holiday Festival** 11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Celebrate the winter holidays as folks did in California, Victorian, and early 20th century Santa Cruz with crafts to do, games to play, cookies to decorate, and more.

The park is located 2 miles north of Santa Cruz on the coast side of Highway 1. For more information, please call (831)426-0505.

## Member Hikes

RSVP 831-429-1840 or Peg@ThatsMyPark.org

**Saturday May 10 9:30AM**  
**Wildflower Walk at**  
**Wilder Ranch State Park**

4.5 – 5 miles Moderate Hike

Join Santa Cruz Mountains naturalist Randy Widera to learn about the many wildflowers in the hills of Wilder Ranch. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water, lunch, hat and sunscreen. Meet in parking lot.

**Saturday June 21 10A**  
**Hike in The Forest of Nisene Marks**

Two Choices: Easy 2-mile or

6.5 mile Moderately Strenuous Hike

Docents Ed Gilbert and Jim Brownson will lead hikers on a choice of an easy 2-mile loop in the woods or a moderately strenuous 6.5-mile hike to Maple Falls. Hikers should wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. Bring water, lunch and snacks for your adventure in the forest. Meet in parking lot.

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Sky Lupin photo by Randy Widera

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### MISSION STATEMENT

Because our quality of life depends on the quality of our State Parks...Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks supports the preservation, knowledge, and awareness of our natural and cultural resources through funding projects and programs in cooperation with local California State Parks.

[www.thatsmypark.org](http://www.thatsmypark.org)

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- ✓ Members receive quarterly *ParkViews*
- ✓ 15% discount in:
  - All Friends' stores:  
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(831) 479-1121 / 724-5692  
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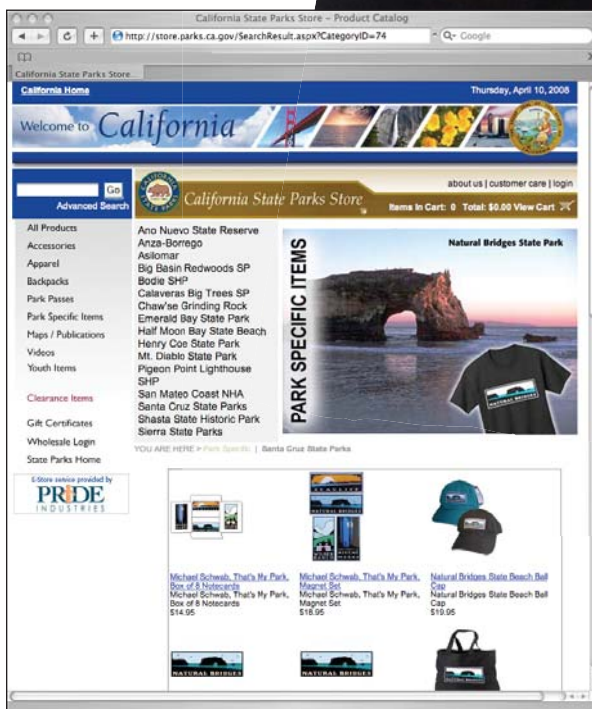
Quarterly Newsletter of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Spring 2008

# ParkViews

**P**icture yourself. It's late at night. You're home relaxing on the couch after a long day's ride on the trails at Wilder Ranch...or a hike at Nisene Marks.

You suddenly realize that you forgot to swing into the park store and get yourself a new That's My Park tee-shirt. Don't despair—thanks to Friends of Santa Cruz State Park's new online webstore, you can shop for any our beautiful That's My Park merchandise 24 hours a day and have your purchase delivered straight to your door. That leaves you with more time for park adventures! Just visit [www.ThatsMyPark.org](http://www.ThatsMyPark.org) for a link to the parkstore site, or see us at <http://store.parks.ca.gov/ThatsMyPark>. (Of course, the Park Stores are still stocked up with the wonderful variety of merchandise that you have come to expect, and we'll be happy to see you there!)



**Annual Clearance Sale**  
All Park Merchandise Discounted!  
Seacliff Visitor Center  
June 14 & 15  
10A - 4P

friends



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