

# ParkViews



*2010 ~ Passion for Parks Produces Steadfast Support*



SAVE OUR STATE PARKS  
www.savestateparks.org



YES ON 21  
www.YesForStateParks.com



▼ Rally Photos: Kelly McCord

▲ A scrapbook of the many ways local supporters showed their passion for Parks in 2010. ▲ Friends' office door clearly displays the staff's sentiments. ▲ Top right: Supervisor Mark Stone presents surfboard to raffish

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▶ All ages join in on square dancing at the Heritage Harvest Festival.

Photos by Randy Wildera and Peg Danielson, unless otherwise credited.

Friends is always looking for photo contributions for ParkViews. Please contact Peg Danielson at (831) 429-1840, ext. 102, or peg@ThatsMyPark.org

*Dear Park Supporters,*

It has been an amazing and memorable year for Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks (Friends). Despite the unprecedented combination of political and budgetary challenges facing our state parks system, along with ever-growing popularity of our parks, we've experienced local support stronger than ever before.

When park closures were eminent, our local community spoke out in huge numbers and supported Friends' advocacy efforts to keep our parks and beaches open.

When voters statewide unfortunately rejected Proposition 21 to fund our parks, Santa Cruz County stepped forward with a Yes vote of 68% — the highest in California.

When the seasonal lifeguard program was cut from the state budget, 546 local businesses and individuals donated the money needed to retain Santa Cruz County's seasonal lifeguards. It was an effort that produced a direct benefit: this season they saved more than 150 lives locally.

At Friends, we're incredibly thankful for the strong support shown by our local community. That support enables us to continue to work tirelessly to preserve our precious state park lands, protect our visitor-serving economy and provide essential funds in support of dynamic programs which inspire and build connections between people and nature.

Our state parks provide recreation and education for locals and visitors. They protect our state's most environmentally sensitive lands and safeguard our most precious historic and cultural treasures. They are vital economic engines for our coastal community. They were fought for, financed and preserved by past generations — and they are our legacy to future generations.

We need our state parks and we need *YOU*. In the New Year we look forward to continuing our partnership with you in support of Santa Cruz County's state parks and beaches. Once again, thank you so much for all your support.

See you the parks!

Bonny Hawley  
*Executive Director*



*Executive Director Bonny Hawley and State Park Superintendent Kirk Lingenfelter*



**Heritage Harvest Festival**

Gray skies and the threat of rain didn't dampen our spirits at this year's Heritage Harvest Festival at Wilder Ranch. Visitors enjoyed hand-cranked ice cream, apple pie and other fall treats while they watched a team of draft horses plowing under the remains of last year's crops. Volunteers demonstrated activities ranging from roping to blacksmithing to baking on the woodstove. Toes tapped to bluegrass and other western music, and a wide range of sizes and ages tried square-dancing with the help of Andy Wilson, who put them through their paces with patience and good humor! Kids painted pumpkins and watched to see if they would win a prize at Goat Pie Bingo. If you missed this year's harvest, take the opportunity to experience Wilder Ranch next year and enjoy *Life on the Ranch: Family Living History Day* (for more information, see page 5).



winner Les Gardner at the Beach Bash. ▲ Participants at the 30th Welcome Back Monarchs Day: Irene, above, is lovely as a monarch and Mander, right, sits patiently while his face is painted monarch-style.

## 30th Welcome Back Monarchs Day

WHEN THE DAYS BEGIN TO SHORTEN AND THE LEAVES TURN, it's time for the Monarchs to return to Natural Bridges, and for Welcome Back Monarchs Day, one of our favorite events in the local State Parks calendar. 10/10/10 marked the 30th year enthusiastic locals and visitors have gathered to celebrate the return of these tiny travelers with arts and crafts, active games for kids, live music, poetry and parades. Monarch Man and Woman made their annual appearance, joined by festival founders John Lane, Chris Sanguino, and Alex Weiss. Highlights of past festivals were related by Julie Sidel, Lee Summers and Steve Miller. This year featured a "Tunnel Through Time," a display of photos through the years and as always, everyone enjoyed the butterfly cake. You can visit the butterflies while they overwinter at Natural Bridges, and bid them farewell for the season at the Migration Festival on February 12th (See Calendar, page 5 for more information).

Illustration: Zake Smith

## Castro Adobe Project Back in High Gear with New Committee, Interpretive Plan, and Archeology in Action

The grandest of all adobe buildings representing Northern California's rancho period is the two-story Castro Adobe near Watsonville. This hacienda features a spacious *sandango* room on the second floor and an original one-story *cocina*, one of only five such Mexican kitchens remaining in the state. With its long, two-story proportions and full-width open balcony, it is a distinctly Monterey-Colonial building that demonstrates the expansion to the countryside of this celebrated architectural form from its original urban setting at the end of the Mexican era (1821–1848).

In 2002, with Assemblymember Fred Keeley's inspired leadership, the Castro Adobe was acquired by the State of California, from its dedicated owners Joe Kimbro and the late Edna Kimbro, to become Rancho San Andrés Castro Adobe State Historic Park. Acquisition was the first step on a long road to stabilize the earthquake-devastated structure and eventually open it to the public.

Last year we were delighted to announce that, with your help, we had Saved the Castro Adobe! The new roof was on, the walls repaired with our volunteers' hand-made adobe bricks, and the building was seismically stabilized.

Then the State Parks funding crisis hit and our attention was largely diverted to keeping our existing parks open and accessible to visitors.

We are now back on task and working full speed ahead to bring the Castro Adobe to life. Friends has formed a new Castro Adobe Committee, ably chaired by Friends Board Member and Castro descendent Charlie Kieffer. The committee is rounded out with Friends Board Members and Staff, State Parks Staff, and interested community members. The Committee meets monthly and is working hard to help guide the project forward.

Historian Jessica Kusz has been retained by Friends to work with the State Parks staff locally and in Sacramento to produce the Castro Adobe Interpretive Prospectus. The Interpretive Prospectus will serve as the guiding document by which the State Park conveys the story of the Castro Adobe. The intent is to accurately interpret the Mexican Rancho period in Santa Cruz through the lens of the Castro family and their experience in 1840s California. Jessica's work includes developing themes to interpret the history of the Castro Adobe, responding to concerns with the overall site as well as determining how the site fits into the local community. She has been working with many stakeholders to develop this crucial document, which will be the road map to our newest state historic park.



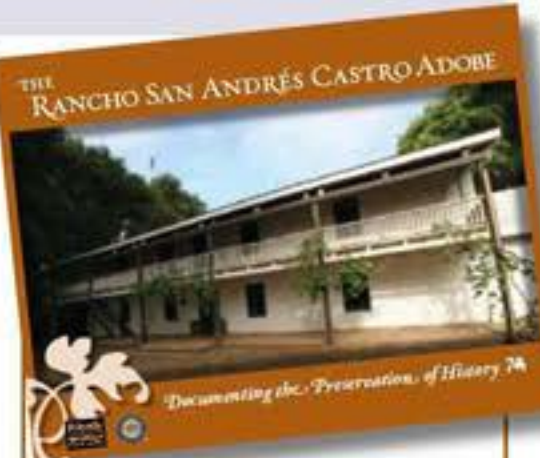
Meanwhile, Karen Hildenbrand, State Parks Archaeologist (pictured left), and a group of dedicated volunteers have been exploring the Adobe cocina, which was paved over for use as a garage in the 1960s. Earlier this summer, they removed the concrete to expose the top of the floor, revealing the stone perimeter foundation and the layers of the earthen floor. It appears that a *bracero* (masonry range) was built directly on the smooth earthen floor, adjacent to the north wall. It was approximately six-foot long and the width has yet to be determined. These measurements and locational data can be used to reconstruct the bracero for interpretive purposes.

Hildenbrand and the volunteers

also found two other important historic features in the room. Trenches dug along the south wall of the cocina exposed holes for square posts (pictured right). Their purpose is not clear, although they most likely relate to early use of the cocina to board horses. The posts may have supported a storage area for the hay or some other related use.

A trash pit was also unearthed, where volunteers found two metal steps for a carriage; early car repair debris; old newspapers and oil along with wood and various other discarded objects. Their work continues on the cocina.

Stay tuned for how you can help make the Castro Adobe State Historic Park a reality and watch for updates on our Castro Adobe blog: <http://castroadobe.blogspot.com>.



### Available Now!

Sixteen-page booklet that documents the saving of the Castro Adobe. Pick up a copy at your nearby Friends Park Store.



Photos: Don Nielsen

## Passion for Parks Produces Steadfast Support and Enriches Community

Last year we knew that our work was cut out for us, and it would be an uphill battle to keep our parks open and try to pass the State Parks Initiative. By May, Friends reported that our nearly 100 local volunteers had collected more than 4,200 signatures! They worked tirelessly at all of the area's Farmer's Markets, at tables on Pacific Avenue and while out walking in the parks. They collected at work, in their neighborhoods, at bookclubs and at parent nights at their schools. We learned in June that the initiative had made the ballot as Proposition 21, and our volunteers hit the streets again, this time to spread the word and encourage their friends and neighbors to vote. We gave out 200 yard signs and sent out more than 2,500 postcards to our members and supporters. We loved seeing the Yes on 21 bumper stickers all around town.

Based on the results on election day, we love knowing that our parks are a critical part of our community.



## WE ♥ OUR STATE PARKS

While the Prop 21 statewide results were deeply disappointing, we have much to be proud of in Santa Cruz County. The local *Yes on 21* vote was 68% — the highest in California and 25.4% higher than the statewide result! The people of Santa Cruz County clearly cherish our state parks and beaches and are willing to invest in helping them thrive.

Our sincere thank you to everyone in the community who worked so hard over this past year to Save Our State Parks. In the weeks and months to come, we at Friends will keep our sleeves rolled up to focus that profound local support to help our local state parks and beaches continue to be the very best in California — no matter the challenges!

### Yes on 21 Votes by Top Counties

State of California = 42.6%

1.	Santa Cruz	68%
2.	Marin	63%
3.	San Francisco	62.3%
4.	Alameda	56.8%
5.	Sonoma	56.2%
6.	Yolo	54%
7.	San Mateo	53.3%
7.	Monterey	53.3%
8.	Alpine	52.7%
9.	Santa Clara	52.4%



(Source: Secretary of State vote totals as of November 23, 2010)

## SAVE OUR STATE PARKS

In the wake of the failure of Proposition 21, our State Parks are in dire financial straits. The current state budget mirrors the devastating cuts of last year PLUS an additional 5%. In addition, the governor-imposed hiring freeze ensures the local state park ranger vacancy rate of 30% will continue. As of press time, there may be additional budget cuts during the legislative special session.

Friends remains committed to doing all we can to Save Our State Parks. Please donate at [www.ThatsMyPark.org](http://www.ThatsMyPark.org) or Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, 144 School Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## That's My Park Travels to Japan

By Dave Vincent

Recently I traveled to Japan as part of a delegation related to the Sister Cities program sponsored by the City of Santa Cruz. The year before, I made a similar visit to Shingu. This time I was asked to speak at a Sustainable Communities Tourism Conference about the value of parks. My remarks included mention of FRIENDS and our very successful marketing campaign, "That's My Park." FRIENDS supplied me with several sets of our very popular magnets as mementoes to give to community leaders and organizations I met while traveling throughout the Wakayama Prefecture. As you can see, Shingu Mayor, Michitoshi Taoka and others were truly thrilled with these gifts.

Retired State Parks District Superintendent Dave Vincent serves as the Executive Director of Leadership Santa Cruz

Photos: Cynthia Matthews





Photo: Don Nielsen

## December 2010

**18** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Holidays on the Ranch"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Celebrate a warm, festive holiday season as folks did in Santa Cruz in Mexican, Victorian, and early 20th-century times. Join in an old-fashioned sing-along around the piano, make Victorian and Mexican holiday crafts, create wreaths and ornaments, make and play dreidel and more as you delight in the season at Wilder Ranch State Park. The park is located off Highway 1 just north of Santa Cruz; for more information, call (831) 426-0505.

## February

**12** Natural Bridges State Beach  
"Migration Festival"

11:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Fly, swim, waddle, walk, bike or drive as you migrate to Natural Bridges State Beach for a full-day of activities that celebrate the migration of whales, butterflies, birds and the many creatures that travel. The park will host migratory animal talks, active kids' games, crafts, skits, live music by the nature-loving SM's Band, educational booths and displays, along with the now-famous free habitat-cake served at the end of the event.

The event is geared towards families and children, but there is sure to be something for everyone, including adults. You can purchase a picnic at the park or bring your own. More information is available by calling (831) 423-4609. The park is located at 2531 West Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

## April

**9** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Life on the Ranch:  
Family Living History Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Find out how families lived during Mexican Rancho and early dairy ranching days at Wilder Ranch State Park's Family Living History Days. Activities include a selection of hands-on activities and demonstrations and may include draft horse wagon rides, branding, horseshoes, hand-making tortillas and salsa, chuck wagon style cooking, roping skills and lawn games. Come for a picnic on the lawn and follow it up with a game of tug of war, sack races, hoops, stilts, bubbles, and more! The event is held on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve. This event is appropriate for all ages. For more information, please call (831)426-0505.

**16** Location to be determined  
Earth Day Commemoration

8:30 A.M. Check in, Work 9:00 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

Join Friends and make a difference on Earth Day. At press time, we're still working out the details of the project, but one thing we're sure of — we need you!

# A Year of Fun!

**30** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Spring Garden Planting Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Imagine yourself at Wilder Ranch back in its heyday; pretend you are a worker on the ranch and help plant the heirloom vegetable garden as it would have been c.1900. Also enjoy composting demonstrations, gardening information and children's garden crafts. The event is held on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve. This event is appropriate for all ages. For more information, please call (831)426-0505.

## May

**14** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Life on the Ranch:  
Family Living History Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

## June

**11** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Life on the Ranch:  
Family Living History Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

## 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 1911-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. This event is appropriate for all ages. More information is available at (831)426-0505. The event is held on the grounds of the Wilder Ranch Cultural Preserve.

**16** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Life on the Ranch:  
Family Living History Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

## August

**13** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Life on the Ranch:  
Family Living History Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

## September

**17** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Life on the Ranch:  
Family Living History Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

## October

**9** 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 over-wintering habitat. Participate in numerous activities including arts & crafts, active games for kids, music by the SM'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-top's for a butterfly garden. This event is appropriate for all ages. More information is available at (831) 423-4609.

**22** 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 living history demonstrations, listen to music, make crafts, and participate in harvest-time activities. This event is appropriate for all ages. More information is available at (831) 426-0505.

## November

**12** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Life on the Ranch:  
Family Living History Day"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

## December 2011

**19** Wilder Ranch State Park  
"Holidays on the Ranch"

11:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

Celebrate a warm, festive holiday season as folks did in Santa Cruz in Mexican, Victorian, and early 20th-century times. Join in an old-fashioned sing-along around the piano, make Victorian and Mexican holiday crafts, create wreaths and ornaments, make and play dreidel and more as you delight in the season at Wilder Ranch State Park. For more information, call (831) 426-0505.

Friends closed our "Save Our Lifeguards" campaign with a Beach Bash. Nearly 200 people gathered to celebrate our success in keeping the seasonal lifeguard program alive.

Thanks to all the entertainers and donors who made it happen!



Photo: Don Nielsen. Dancers from the Hula Halau 'O Mahina I Ke Kai provided fabulous entertainment at the Beach Bash.

# Thank You

## Save Our Lifeguards donors

### \$2500+

Dusty Nelson, Director  
Cinematographer, Filmmaker  
FRIENDS Board

### \$1000-\$2499

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Val Cole & Freya Cooper  
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Monterey Peninsula Engineering, Inc.  
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Succulent Gardens  
Jim & Carol Toney  
Tim Ward  
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### \$250-\$499

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Byington Vineyard & Winery  
Angela & Robert Chesnut  
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Over the years, our seasonal lifeguards have continually protected us (this season alone, they saved more than 150 lives locally). After this spring's historic budget cuts, we returned the favor and saved them. Friends rallied 546 community donors to provide the \$60,000 required to Save Our Lifeguards.

This is a truly amazing statement of commitment by our community, including businesses and individuals. Friends are so thankful for and heartened by the response we received, especially as we all continue to weather the economic storm and the state budget crisis.



# Mountain Bikers Make a Difference at Wilder Ranch



Photos: Karen Kefauver

For years a battered, mainly unreadable sign marked the entrance to the backcountry trails at Wilder Ranch State Park. Visitors are now greeted by a beautiful panel that includes a large map and a lot of useful information about the area. State Parks Interpreter Elizabeth Hammack worked miracles to get the sign designed and built under budget. The Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz were instrumental in shepherding the process along, and their generous donation provided the lion's share of the funding for the sign. Friends was proud to provide the last funds needed to make the project a reality.

On September 18<sup>th</sup>, some forty mountain bikers, state parks and Friends staff, and other community members met up to dedicate the sign and celebrate a successful partnership! After Mark Davidson, the President of Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz, unveiled the new panel, Wilder Ranch interpreters Bobbie Haver and Barbara Cooksey provided refreshments. Those of us on foot stood back and enjoyed the colorful parade of bikers as they left for a celebratory ride in the beautiful backcountry.

## and all FRIENDS members & donors

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Background Image: Don Nielsen



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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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Quarterly Newsletter of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Winter 2011

# ParkViews



## The Monarchs Have Arrived!

Visit the Monarch Grove at Natural Bridges to welcome these tiny travelers home.

When you go, be sure to stop into the visitors center and parkstore.  
Open 7 days a week from 10AM to 4PM.

The store is newly stocked with butterfly merchandise for the season.

See the selection of beautiful books and posters, toys, gifts, jewelry and apparel for the whole family.

Did you know that Natural Bridges' Monarch Grove is a temporary home for thousands of monarch butterflies each winter? From mid-October until early February, you can travel down the park's wheelchair- and stroller-accessible boardwalk to the observation deck in the eucalyptus grove to view the over-wintering Monarchs. The Monarch Grove has been declared a Natural Preserve, thus protecting the Monarchs and their winter habitat from human encroachment or harm. This is the only State Monarch Preserve in California.

Guided tours for the public take place on Saturdays and Sundays at 11AM and 2PM. From Mid-October until the monarchs migrate inland, usually early February. Tours are offered on weekends and no reservations are necessary. Call (831) 423-4609 to arrange a tour for a group of 10 or more. Meet at the Visitor Center for the hour-long program.

## Join Friends Today!

Your membership helps provide environmental education, living history demonstrations, campfires, hikes, tours, and more!

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