

ParkViews



THE FOREST *of*
NISENE
MARKS

SCHWAB

ARTWORK CREATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS BY GRAPHIC DESIGNER MICHAEL SCHWAB COPYRIGHT 2005

THAT'S MY PARK

ENJOY LEARN GIVE BACK



▲ Volunteer Appreciation Day & Celebration at Wilder Ranch



▲ Meder House currently being renovated, pictured next to the Victorian at Wilder Ranch.

Available April 15

In all five Friends Park Stores and online at www.thatsmypark.org

This compelling artwork ~ a series of limited edition, silkscreen fine art prints, numbered and signed by the artist.

For a donation of \$150 or more you will receive the art print of your choice or a complete set of four with a minimum donation of \$500.

Help Friends raise \$40,000 for each of these treasured parks. All donations raised in this campaign go directly to your parks and are 100% tax deductible.

Friends is offering you the opportunity to support the Education & Restoration Fund at "your" park by owning and enjoying limited edition fine art prints, created by renowned artist Michael Schwab. This artwork evokes the era of the 1930s when Californians first voted to support the State Park system.

Come and celebrate "That's My Park" Day when Friends unveils the artwork in the series including:

Wilder Ranch ■ Natural Bridges
Seacliff ■ The Forest of Nisene Marks

Saturday ■ April 15, 2006 THAT'S MY PARK Day In Honor of Earth Day

Come to Wilder Ranch in the morning and learn how you can Give Back to your park. Representatives from many volunteer groups will share their passion and their skills. You can sign up that day.

Free parking for all participants!

Ready for action? Come along with us to Natural Bridges. Join the work party and help us eradicate non-native hemlock from our wetlands.

The first 50 participants to RSVP for the work party and work for two hours receive a distinctive "That's My Park" tee shirt. Call Peg Danielson at the Friends Office (831) 429-1840 to sign up today!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10 ~ 12:30

Wilder Ranch State Park

Park volunteer demonstrations
Coffee & refreshments available

11 Unveiling *That's My Park* artwork for -
The Forest of Nisene Mark & Wilder Ranch

Spring Garden Planting Day

11 ~ 3 Help plant the heirloom garden at Wilder Ranch

Moving on...

1 ~ 4

Natural Bridges State Beach

Water & nutrition bars for all participants

1 Sign-in, welcome & training
Work party

1:30 ~ 4 Unveiling *That's My Park* artwork for -
Seacliff & Natural Bridges

4 Reception with refreshments to follow -
Celebrate your hard work!

THAT'S MY PARK FRIENDS' VISION TO STEWARD OUR PARKS FOR THE NEXT 30 YEARS

by Randy Widera, Friends Executive Director



THIS YEAR FRIENDS OF SANTA CRUZ STATE PARKS CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP for Santa Cruz County's treasured state parks. Working together with our community, we have helped hundreds of thousands of school children have first hand experiences and adventures with the natural and cultural wonders of our parks. We have helped to restore miles of trails and acres of habitat. We have built five museum/visitor centers, where millions of visitors and locals have been welcomed and presented an opportunity to learn.

Each accomplishment can be traced to a spark of interest that has been replicated over and over in the hearts and actions of park visitors and patrons. When a child picks up a fallen monarch in the grove at Natural Bridges and gently places him on a dry leaf, or a hiker removes a branch from the trail to make the path a little easier for the next rider, that spark can ignite a life-long relationship with a local state park. And it happens when someone says, "That's My Park." This relationship is what sustains the ongoing stewardship of our local state parks.

Currently, state parks are experiencing pressures unlike any before.

- 50% decrease in state funding over the past ten years.
- Dramatic increase in park visitation and strain on park infrastructure.
- Little or no funding for educational and stewardship programs.
- Threats from non-mission-related uses such as: toll roads, housing development and golf courses.

Without action, a healthy future for our local state parks is at risk. This is why the Board of Directors of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks, key state park personnel and local visionaries have joined to create "That's My Park," a new program that draws on an individual's — and our community's — natural spark to ensure our parks are stewarded for the next 30 years, and beyond.

We need to rekindle the energy and passion our community put forth in preserving these lands and cultural resources, and establish a mechanism for their ongoing stewardship. As a lifelong resident of Santa Cruz County and a veteran of 20 years in education and preservation of our natural and cultural resources, I believe we are at a critical juncture in the future of our state parks. At its core, "That's My Park" is a new parks movement.

Goals over the next three years for "That's My Park" are:

- Raise \$500,000 in funding for educational programs in local parks.
- Reach 1.5 million local community members and park visitors to build a broader awareness of the value of state parks.
- Reach every student in Santa Cruz County and double annual educational program attendance and volunteer participation.

With so many parks to explore, the possibilities are nearly endless: The Forest of Nisene Marks and Wilder Ranch State Parks; Natural Bridges, New Brighton, Seacliff and Sunset State Beaches; and Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park. Do you know which park ignites your spark?

Please join Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks April 15 for the launch of "That's My Park." For more information call (831) 429-1840 or visit: www.thatsmypark.org

Unveiling Saturday April 15

In our five park stores and online at www.thatsmypark.org Come discover our distinctive new apparel and merchandise emblazoned with compelling *That's My Park* images evoking 1930s Romantic California WPA era when so many State Parks were preserved. All our sales directly benefit local Santa Cruz State Parks: Forest of Nisene Marks ■ Wilder Ranch ■ Natural Bridges ■ Seacliff

Grand Opening of Pacific Migrations Visitor Center/Museum

Friday April 7 1-3PM New Brighton State Beach

Come help us celebrate Friends' lovely new visitor center — our fifth — created by a unique collaboration of artists and historians, funded by Friends. Artful displays help visitors learn about cultures that came to the Central Coast and left their indelible impression on our landscape and history. Features include China Beach, early camping, digital video of summers at Pot Belly Beach—a fifty-year chronicle of families and their summer cabins at New Brighton, plus the migrations of bird, animal and aquatic species, like sooty shearwaters, grey whales, Monarch butterflies, pompano, and other natural species that have drawn people to New Brighton throughout time to live, work and play.

Reception & Grand Opening Refreshments • History Tours

- Chinese music performance by "Melody for Two Strings" ~ 2PM
- Honored guests whose families lived or camped here.



the 1850s into the 1880s. Beautiful permanent exhibits share some of this rare cultural history of Chinese immigrants, significant in fishing, agriculture, transportation, business and early tourism.

Our new Friends' park store here features inspiring apparel, educational gifts, toys and books, and camping supplies.

Pacific Migrations' unique nexus of cultural and natural learning complements the superb natural history programs at Seacliff State Beach and Forest of Nisene Marks, and the excellent historic exhibits at the Capitola and Aptos Museums.

Renovating & Furnishing the Meder Home

Wilder Ranch State Park
Closing in on our \$50,000 fundraising goal!

To date, since July 4, 2005, we've raised more than 50% of the \$50,000 we need to furnish the Meder Home as an innovative "Touch and Use" Living Museum. We're providing sturdy antique reproduction goods and furnishings so school children and visitors can experience hands-on rural life as living history in the early 1900s, at the heart of Wilder Ranch. California State Parks and Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks are working together on this major renovation, restoring the historically significant Meder Home to its early 1900s grandeur.

At our Independence Day 1905 Celebration, we raised more than \$4,000, offering old-fashioned handmade paper flower posies (thank you, Karma Graham). Val and Freny Cole hosted our house party with special guest speaker Fred Keeley. Guests donated almost \$11,000, bringing the future legacy of the Meder Home much closer.

Buy Your Own Square Foot of the Meder Home!

Bring us one square foot closer to fully restoring the Meder Home For \$30:

One handsome, limited edition Wilder Ranch coin or One key ring with the same Wilder Ranch coin Our gift to you for each \$30 donation to the Meder Home For inspection and immediate delivery, come to Wilder Ranch for That's My Park Day • Sat. April 15 Or contact Kelsey at the Friends office: 831-479-1840 or kelsey@scparkfriends.org • Limited quantities



3 Park Interpreters Who Bring Our Parks Alive with Learning & Wonder

“Park Interpreters” are the backbone and lifeblood of Visitor Centers and educational programs in the parks. They are teachers, naturalists and guides with many varied skills, who run docent volunteer programs, develop and direct special events, work closely with teachers, their classes and the public, and on many other “behind-the-scenes” activities. In this issue of Park Views, we salute three of these outstanding park ambassadors:

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks has long played a key role in funding the Interpreter positions at Wilder Ranch State Park, Natural Bridges State Beach, Seacliff State Beach, and the Santa Cruz Mission State Historic Park.

Josh Stark

**Park Interpreter 1
Seacliff State Beach**

JOSH STARK is the newest park interpreter in the Santa Cruz District team and directs the docent programs at Seacliff State Beach and at New Brighton State Park. He grew up in Isleton, California, then only 800 people, at the heart of the California delta. Growing up on a river delta, Josh spent his youth exploring and loving the riparian (land directly next to rivers and streams) habitats around him, on foot and by boat. “I was the outdoor/nerd type and was given the Science award as a senior.” Josh majored in religious studies and philosophy, got his B.A. in social sciences and philosophy from Cal State Sacramento, his teaching credential and taught high school for ten years, near Davis and near Isleton.

Josh found the Interpreter I position serendipitously. “I stumbled across the State Parks’ website bulletin, found the job description for the Interpreter I position and wondered, ‘why haven’t I been doing this for the past 10 years!’”

“Working here gives me the opportunity to return to a habitat alive with water and many kinds of birds, like I loved as a child. At Seacliff, we have so many shore birds, the willets, the godwits, and many more. A Black Phoebe (a flycatcher) comes to our Visitor Center front porch, usually when it is raining. I lived on Ryer Island in the delta, where a Black Phoebe came to our porch to eat many wasps. The woodland habitat of New Brighton is fascinating, with the California Towhees, chickadees, and nuthatches.”

Josh enjoys working at Seacliff Visitors Center. “I really like working with the docents! I am amazed to come to work with people who so love to work here that they do it for free!” He is impressed with the docent program he has inherited. “I am blessed with my docents and the State Parks staff. I’ve watched the veteran docents, Bob and Bev Montague, Ed Gilbert and Park Interpretive Specialist Jan Leppe, and others, bring such excitement and engagement to what they do, with no cliché or irony. I get to watch 4th graders and teenagers as they gasp and interact here in our education programs. They are in an environment where they can be more honest and open, and they are safe. It’s a great reminder of all the best reasons why I got into teaching.” And as for the challenges of being a State Parks interpreter, Josh aims to fine-tune the “balancing act of paperwork, upcoming activities and the needs of visitors.”

Josh lives with his wife Agnes in Boulder Creek, and both are former professional kayak guides on the lower American river. Josh likes to fly fish, kayak, birdwatch, and to learn and read widely.



Carolyn Schimandle

**Park Interpreter I
Wilder Ranch State Park**

CAROLYN SCHIMANDLE grew up exploring the horse pastures and open space of watershed lands just in San Anselmo in Marin County. Her family often camped in the redwoods of Samuel P. Taylor Park, “Mom says we were camping when I was just one year old.” As a teen she explored the stunning local natural beauty, like Mount Tamalpais, Stinson Beach, and Angel Island, where she worked for one summer.

A talented clarinet player, Carolyn aspired to be a professional musician and earned a music degree, but auditioning for jobs threw her into a panic. She went back and got her engineering/computer science degree, and worked as a programmer for six years until the birth of her daughter Iris. “Colic got me into state parks!” asserts Carolyn, who kept extending her maternity leave to be with her colicky daughter. As a stay-at-home-mom, she began volunteering at Henry Coe State Park, and found she had talent and love for interpretation. Henry Coe’s District Interpretive Specialist Mary Stokes saw her as a “diamond interpreter in the rough” and encouraged her to apply for a seasonal interpreter position. Carolyn landed the job, one day each at Henry Coe, the district office, and Pacheco State Park, juggling web page design, cataloguing artifacts and photos, and projects, “It was a great experience, but challenging to get things done!” Carolyn visited Wilder with her family for the annual Spring Open House by the Friends of Wilder and State Parks, before it became a State Park. Her kids insisted on playing in the ever-alluring tree in the front lawn, as Carolyn yearned to explore. Little did she guess how well she’d know the ranch one day.

Elizabeth Hammack, Santa Cruz State Park’s District Interpretive Specialist, started the interpretive and docent volunteer program at Wilder and helped Carolyn begin. “I was surprised I had a talent for putting on special events well and I genuinely liked doing it. I love doing special projects and school tours. We get mainly third graders, who are awesome, and I haven’t found an age I don’t like yet.” After six years at Wilder, she knows, “An activity is worth a million words. Kids are doers. They all have different learning styles, yet every kid remembers what they did over what they’re told...When visitors learn we are restoring the Meder House as an innovative touch and use museum for the living history programs, they perk up, whether they have kids or not.”

Carolyn lives with her husband Jim and her children Iris and Kit in Morgan Hill, where she finds solace in gardening, (old-fashioned, native plants and heirloom vegetables) and tending to her chickens, bunny rabbits, dogs and cats.



Martha Nitzberg

**Park Interpreter 1
Natural Bridges State Park**

MARTHA NITZBERG remembers visiting Natural Bridges State Beach with her family, when there were still two stone arches. She grew up in Palo Alto, accompanied her mother to galvanize support for a local park, and to encourage recycling. Her father loved to take her hiking, “Thanks to them I got the environmentalist bug.”

Martha studied at U.C. Berkeley and Occidental College in LA. “I was in research, working in a company, and realized I was most happy outside as an ecologist. My happiest experience so far had been an internship at Montana’s Glacier National Park.” Every weekend she went on backpacking “quests” to learn the park and share with visitors. She saw a Grizzly bear there, from a distance.

Martha followed her heart to a career in ecology, and has worked at Jewell Cave National Monument (the third largest-known cave in the world) in South Dakota, eastern Washington’s Coulee Dam Recreation Area, California’s Headlands Institute, and then to Glacier Bay, Alaska for two summers. “It was incredible to go on a dream vacation every day all summer! After two years I had hiked

and kayaked everywhere you could go.” She and her longtime partner Mark got to see the brilliant blue of the Muir Glacier, “It was intense!” Martha and Mark moved to Santa Cruz, she worked at Wilder Ranch State Park, Elkhorn Slough, and now at Natural Bridges State Beach for years.

Martha’s passion for her work is clear: “I love working with kids, I love working with adults and I love docents. They are incredibly generous and interesting people and I learn a lot from them.” She appreciates that local scientists, like John Dayton, share their wealth of knowledge with her incoming docents. She loves tidepooling at Natural Bridges, “Tide pools are a grand adventure, like a treasure chest - you never know what you will find.”

Natural Bridges’ illustrious Monarch butterflies deeply inspire her wonder and respect, “Monarchs are insects, and in our culture we’re afraid of insects, but the Monarch is a lovely, beautiful insect and they are fascinating to people.” She encourages everyone to please plant milkweed for the Monarchs, “Milkweed is the only food Monarch caterpillars eat, so it’s tremendously important to grow.” Martha is helping to develop a Monarch-themed program for PORTS (Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students). “Children often ask such clear and thoughtful questions, like, ‘Are there fossils for monarchs?’ When kids look through the spotting scope for first time and see hundreds of butterflies hanging in a cluster, I get to hear them gasp, ‘Wow!’”

When not at Natural Bridges, Martha could be performing with Santa Cruz’s Five M’s Band (Mostly Mediocre Monarch Mariposa Musicians) or flying up in the skies with Mark (an experienced pilot) on another adventure!

Walking Tours

Come meet these featured Park Interpreters

Seacliff

Fossil Walks at Noon on 1st & 3rd Sundays. History Walks at Noon on some Saturdays. School tours by appointment.

Contact Josh
831-685-6444
or jstark@parks.ca.gov

Wilder Ranch

Ranch Tours 11AM & 1PM Sat & Sun & other times. Nature Walks 10AM & other times.

Living History Demos 11AM - 3PM Sat & Sun. School tours by appointment. Contact Carolyn
831-426-0505

Natural Bridges

Tide Pool Tours March 1 - July 30.

Monarch Tours mid-Oct - mid-Feb.

School tours by appointment. Contact Martha
831-423-4609



Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks
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MISSION STATEMENT

Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks is dedicated to promoting the appreciation and stewardship of our local state parks' natural and cultural heritage by facilitating and supporting educational programs and exhibits.

YOU'RE THE FIRST TO SEE!
THAT'S MY PARK
ENJOY LEARN GIVE BACK

Quarterly Newsletter of Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks

Spring 2006

www.scparkfriends.org
and soon

www.thatsmypark.org
Unveiled Saturday April 15

ParkViews

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Yes, I support Friends of Santa Cruz State Parks in bringing our parks alive with learning and wonder.

- \$15 Student/Senior
 - \$25 Supporting
 - \$35 Family
 - \$50 Park Steward
 - \$100 Bronze
 - \$250 Silver
 - \$500 Gold
 - Other _____
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- _____ specify project

With your credit card you can contribute monthly to **Friends**.

- \$10 \$25 \$50 Other _____
- My check is enclosed, payable to **Friends**.
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friends



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