



COASTWALKER

THE NEWSLETTER OF COASTWALK
Leading the way on the California Coastal Trail
Fall 2007

Greetings from the Coastwalk Office!

Emily De Falla, Interim Executive Director

Wow! Summer just sped by. I hope you had as much fun as we did hiking the coast, putting up our new California Coastal Trail insignia (see page 4) and making friends. As we plan for next year, I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on what has been going on with Coastwalk.

Right in the middle of the summer, I came on board as the Interim Executive Director, when Mike Lee left to relocate to Hawaii. Mike had joined Coastwalk in 2006 following our founding Executive Director Richard Nichols' retirement.

I have been part of the Coastwalk family for almost 20 years now! I've served as a board member, Board President, Treasurer, Development Chair, and SF County Coordinator. Obviously I love this organization and was thrilled to be available to help out as Interim Executive Director when the opportunity presented itself.

Greetings, *continued on pg. 7*

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What do YOU think?

Coastwalk wants to hear from you! Your insights are valuable...
Our question of the month is:

What does responsible access to the coast mean to you?

Weigh in on the Coastwalk website, at: www.coastwalk.org.
Click on the "What do YOU think?" button, and don't forget to check back often to read the responses!

Coastwalk Reunion Weekend

All Coastwalkers are invited to a reunion weekend October 27 & 28th. This series of events promises fun all the way through!

Members and volunteers are welcome to come to our open board meeting on Saturday afternoon, followed by dinner and a party with games, prizes and surprises. (You can skip the meeting and just come to the dinner and party if you like).

On Saturday night, accommodations ranging from private homes to places to pitch your own tents will be available. On Sunday, we'll have a variety of outings geared to hikers, bikers, and families.

We'll keep you posted as plans get firmed up, and regular updates will be on the website (where you'll be also able to register for the reunion). Please contact Willow at (800) 550-6854 x 5 or wtraja@coastwalk.org if you have immediate questions.

Coastwalk Is...

THE COASTWALK MISSION:

Coastwalk believes that through stewardship of the California coast, people can find a balance between their profound need to experience the coast and the need to preserve its fragile environment. We are a grassroots non-profit organization that inspires, educates and advocates for both coastal protection and access. We create a community of stewards through our unique coastal hiking experiences and our work to complete and sustain the California Coastal Trail.

STAFF:

Emily De Falla, Interim Executive Director
Judy Rosales, Trail Steward
Julie Sicaud, Administrative Assistant
Leila Rand, Graphics & Web Master
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National Coastal Cleanup Day 2007

Coastwalkers joined forces with over 50,000 volunteers statewide in an effort to clean California's beaches, bays, rivers and creeks for the 23rd Annual Coast & Creek Cleanup Day.

Coastwalk sponsored the activities this year in Sonoma County, where we coordinated cleanups county-wide. Sonoma County beaches got a lot cleaner! Over 540 volunteers picked up 2,210 pounds of trash and 944 pounds of recyclables, from over 28 miles of beach!

In San Diego at our adopted beaches, Marine Street Beach and Whispering Palms Beach in La Jolla, we had 30 volunteers who picked up 140 pounds of trash and 10 bags of recyclables from over three miles of beach. San Diego participants included a group of Inner City Outings folks from the Sierra Club and some parents, teachers and children from La Jolla Elementary and the local high school.

Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who made this day possible, and especially to our San Diego Coastwalker extraordinaire, **Ellen Feeney**.

Have you heard about the "Charitable IRA Rollover?"

If you are 70½ years old and required to take minimum distributions from your IRA you might be interested in this opportunity. Many folks don't like being forced to take that minimum distribution and especially don't like to pay the income tax on it. Through December 31, 2007, if you are at least 70½ you can make a gift directly from your IRA to Coastwalk, without paying income tax on the distributions.

This "charitable rollover" as it is called, will count towards your minimum required distribution but will not be taxed. What a painless way to support Coastwalk's work to promote and preserve access to the California coast!

Eligibility Requirements:

- You must be age 70½ or older at the time the distribution is made
- Total IRA gifts this year do not exceed \$100,000 per spouse
- You make the gift on or before December 31, 2007
- Your IRA administrator makes the distribution directly to Coastwalk (Tax ID# 68-0150696)

For more information please call Emily De Falla at the Coastwalk office (800) 550-6854 or go to our website and click on "Charitable IRA Rollover"

(Because your distribution is not taxed, there is no charitable income tax deduction associated with this gift. Please contact your legal or tax advisor concerning the details of this special opportunity.)

Save a Tree! Join our Email List!

We're planning to make the transition to e-Newsletters soon. Don't worry — we'll still offer paper newsletters to those who want them, but we are hoping to save a lot of trees by doing most of our newslettering via email!

Go to our website—www.coastwalk.org—and click to join our email list on the home page, or you can send an email with your name and email address to: lrاند@coastwalk.org.

Tides & Trails

Big Sur CCT Planning

Through efforts of the Big Sur Trail Collaborative and the Coastal Conservancy, the Big Sur Coastal Trail master planning process is in full swing. The Trail through Big Sur could cover some 60 miles of the coast, and the community is strongly concerned about the proposed planning process being funded through the Conservancy. Coastwalk board members Nancy Graves and Fran Gibson attended a community meeting called by the Trail Collaborative in May, where the community submitted a list of concerns they wish addressed in the trail planning process: an “equality model” for master planning should be adopted (equal numbers of residents and agency reps at the table); the Steering Committee should be composed of all geographic localities within Big Sur; the Coastal Trail

should remain on public lands as much as possible; Trail maintenance issues should be addressed ahead of Trail development, and there should be no loss of private land ownership because of the coastal trail (75% of Big Sur lands are now public). The Conservancy has chosen a consulting firm to provide assistance to the Steering Committee, which will be chosen by the Collaborative with input from the community.

The community is interested in a strong bottom-up planning model that meets the needs of all residents, and Coastwalk looks forward to remaining helpful in the planning process. We believe that if we continue to hear and serve the concerns of this remarkable activist community, and others like it statewide, we can build long-term support for the Coastal Trail. Community planning by nature is messy and human—dealing effectively with concerns as they arise is the best way to build a local constituency that will see the Coastal Trail to completion and steward it to become a treasured community resource and investment.

- Fran Gibson

Did You Know?

The Big Sur area (“Sur Country”) has an ancient north-south trail that predates European settlement.

Excerpts from *Coast and Ocean Magazine*, a publication of the Coastal Conservancy

Coastal Trail Makes Progress

The Conservancy Board approved \$1,052,000 for Coastal Trail projects last May. These projects include construction of new trail segments in Humboldt, Sonoma and San Mateo counties, reconstruction of the CCT on the University of California Santa Barbara campus, and planning and feasibility studies for future segments in Mendocino and San Mateo counties.

- The UCSB student body raised \$90,000 and the Coastal Conservancy kicked in \$175,000 for trail rehabilitation and native plant restoration of a half-mile segment of bluff trail that had eroded over the last 17 years.
- In Sonoma County at Bodega Bay, the county will install a bridge across a creek and build a trail that connects the town and Bird Walk Park with popular Doran Beach County Park. This connection will allow visitors and residents to access the Beach without walking on a road or driving.
- In San Mateo County the Peninsula Open Space Trust will use \$377,000 from the Conservancy to construct almost a mile of trail and a parking lot at Pillar Point. The trail overlooks tide pools, beaches and the famous Maverick's surf break.
- The City of San Clemente completed the San Clemente Railroad Corridor Pedestrian Beach Trail, which runs along the entire three-mile city shoreline. The wheelchair accessible trail, designed as part of the CCT, follows the route of an old informal path. New fences and landscaping separate trail users from the railroad tracks and a new crossing with signals allows safe passage across the tracks.

California Coastal Trail

Fall, 2007



Meet our New Trail Steward

Judy Rosales, Coastwalk's new Trail Steward, has big plans for the California Coastal Trail!

"Signing the Trail with the official CCT insignia is a priority. Trail markers serve to raise public awareness of the Trail (this is very important!) and help to build the CCT brand. I look forward to utilizing my marketing skills and my 20-year background in community outreach of all kinds to spread the word statewide about the CCT. Signing is a community building event, as we witnessed at the Kortum Trail event, which brought people from all over together for a common cause. What better way to raise awareness?"

"Our goal is to start insignia installations in San Diego in the spring and work our way north, ending in Del Norte next fall. We are in the process of identifying potential signing projects for 2008; Tim Duff at the Coastal Conservancy will work on getting approvals and permits, if initial signing criteria are met (the trail segment is completed and included in the Local Coastal Plan [LCP], the signing event is supported by the community, and there are enough volunteers to coordinate the event locally). Now is the time to let me know if you are interested in getting a segment of the CCT in your community signed in the next year!"

Judy lives in Sonoma County and is a great addition to the Coastwalk team! She can be reached at (800) 550-6854 or jrosales@coastwalk.org

Insignia Campaign Starts with a Bang!

Coastwalk's inaugural Sonoma County Insignia Weekend was a smashing success! Coastwalkers traveled from as far away as Seattle and Southern California to install markers on the Kortum Trail, do some trail work, and enjoy lovely hikes, delicious food, informative talks and great company.

Trail namesake Bill Kortum and long-time CCT advocate Richard Nichols performed the first insignia installation to the cheers of onlookers. Coastwalk members, equipped with battery powered drills and hardware, completed the installation of 18 emblems along a three and a half mile stretch of CCT.

"Each insignia we installed paid tribute to all the coastal advocates whose tireless efforts made coastal access every citizen's right and the vision of a long-distance California Coastal Trail a reality," said Coastwalk's Trail Steward Judy Rosales

Tim Duff from the state Coastal Conservancy and State Park's Linda Rath were among the invited guests who gathered on Sonoma County's spectacular coast for the launch of Coastwalk's statewide insignia installation campaign.

Contact Trail Steward Judy Rosales at (800) 550-6854 or jrosales@coastwalk.org to get an insignia installation project going near you!



The intrepid insignia installers! (Photos courtesy Big Bottom Photos)



From left: Linda Rath, State Parks; Tim Duff, Coastal Conservancy; Richard Nichols, Coastwalk; Bill Kortum



The CCT is a multi-generational experience!

Coastwalk & Adventure 16 Get the Word Out

There are many ways to experience the California Coastal Trail—some more strenuous than others! Through-hikers Ginny Gregurek and Richard Nichols brought the CCT to life with breathtaking slides of Coastwalk's 2003 Coastal Trail Expedition at August trails clinics hosted by the Adventure 16 stores.

Hiking enthusiasts in San Diego and West L.A. were treated to an amazing tour of the CCT, starting at the Expedition's launch point near the Oregon border. Richard and Ginny kept the capacity crowd captivated with a fast paced slide show depicting the "hike of a lifetime" on nearly 1,200 miles of coastal trail, culminating when the nine hikers reached the Mexican border three months after leaving Northern California.

Trail Steward Judy Rosales gave a presentation on the statewide program Coastwalk is developing, in partnership with the Coastal Conservancy, to mark the Coastal Trail with official CCT insignia.

Coastwalk thanks Adventure 16 for their support and their help in raising awareness of the California Coastal Trail. Visit their website at www.adventure16.com.

Interested in doing a through-hike on the CCT ?

- **Contact the Coastwalk office** to add your name to the list of interested parties. We are exploring the possibility of sponsoring another through-hike in 2010!
- Check out one or both of the **two-volume guide *Hiking the California Coast*** by Coastwalk board member Richard Nichols and co-author Bob Lorentzen. You can download an order form from the store on the Coastwalk website: www.coastwalk.org
- Itching to get out on the Coastal Trail now, for either a day hike or a backpack? **Visit the Hiker's Guide on the californiacoastaltrail.info website**—it is chock-full of useful information for hikers, ranging from maps to day hike descriptions and detailed guides to supply availability along the Trail: www.californiacoastaltrail.info/cms/pages/hikers/hikers_guide.html



Lost Coast backpackers installing an insignia at Needle Point



A bison joins in the fun at the LA Catalina Adventure

Celebrating Summer, Anticipating Fall!

By Willow Taraja, Events Coordinator

As the long summer days begin to shorten, and the evening air becomes crisp and fresh, the Coastwalk Fall Adventure programs are in full swing!

Sonoma County enjoys exquisite fall weather with sun-filled days and brilliant blue skies. Our second annual Sonoma Women's get-away is just getting started (Sept. 28 - Oct. 1); lucky hikers will enjoy two refreshing days on the Coastal Trail, then will be "queens for a day" at the premier Russian River Food & Wine Festival. Plan to attend next year!

If you've ever wondered what a sea star eats for dinner, join in as San Diego Coastwalkers showcase their stretch of the CCT when they host the October Tide pool Adventure weekend in San Diego (Oct. 26 - 28). You can register on-line or by phone for this great family get-away—don't put that tent in storage just yet! www.coastwalk.org or (800) 550-6854.

This summer season offered lots of CCT activity for walk enthusiasts. Intrepid Coastwalkers backpacked the wilds of the Humboldt/Mendocino Lost Coast, installing several official CCT Trail Markers along the way. The Lost Coast is one of the most remote sections of the CCT, and hike leader Stan Bluhm partnered with State Parks to determine the exact locations and way points along the Coastal Trail for insignia installations. Stan is truly "leading the way on the CCT!"

Speaking of trail marker installations, Sonoma County was host to a CCT Insignia Weekend in August. Coastwalk members and volunteers from as far off as Washington State and San Diego joined together to install 23 Coastal Trail markers along a three mile stretch of the Kortum Trail. The youngest Coastwalk member to get his hands dirty was Kevin Tai, age 9, from Castro Valley, CA.

Coastwalkers warmly welcomed a new County Coordinator,

Ron Jones, as he guided the way along the Trail on the Majestic Del Norte Adventure this past June, while other Coastwalkers enjoyed their adventures through Humboldt, Mendocino and Santa Barbara counties. This season, Santa Barbara hikers were treated to a ferry ride and docent-led exploration of the Santa Cruz Islands, and we are told that this is a MUST DO for future programs.

Catalina Coastwalkers welcomed new volunteers Anne O'Brien and George Schmeltzer as program coordinators. The 2007 LA-Catalina program saw quite a few longtime Coastwalkers and many new folks, all eager to spend their days exploring the island, arriving just a few weeks following the fires that engulfed much of this unique landscape. The report is that the hiking trail and campgrounds are in excellent condition. It will be quite interesting from a biological perspective to monitor how the island landscape repairs and renews over the next few seasons. Stay tuned.

Coastwalk inaugurated another new program in 2007, the Inn-based day-hiking adventures, complete with fine dining and down bedding. Coastwalkers were pampered while staying at the Historic Requa Inn located in Del Norte County. Day hikes were led by regional hiking experts Rich Ridenhour and Linda Doerflinger, and each showcased the spectacular coastal forests and lush coastal terraces along the CCT where the ancient redwoods meet the sea. The classic Marin Headlands program participants once again enjoyed the comfy dormitory style lodging and great meals offered the Headlands Institute, a perfect blend of Coastwalk adventure by day and comforts by night.

Coastwalk hosted several family adventures this summer in San Francisco, Monterey and Sonoma counties, inspiring a new generation of coastal stewards! San Francisco Coastwalkers were treated to an overnight on the sailing ship Balclutha, in addition to great day hike explorations along the Coastal Trail. The Monterey family programs were jam-packed with adventure, as families sea-kayaked on Monterey Bay by day, getting up-close to sea lions and otters, and then explored the

continued next page



Jim Townsend and Ron Jones help fix up the Kortum Trail

Your legacy to the coast...

Help keep our promise to the future.

If you are thinking about making charitable contributions in your will or trust, please consider including a gift to Coastwalk. When you leave a legacy for the California coast, you help to ensure that the generations to follow will have access to our wonderful beaches, bluffs, and trails.

Please visit our website, www.coastwalk.org, for more information. Or call Emily at (800) 550-6854.

Summer, *continued from pg. 6*

Aquarium by night, enjoying the opportunity to pet a Bat Ray and sleep with sharks and giant sunfish. Sonoma County warmly welcomed Penny Porch as the new volunteer coordinator of the classic Sonoma Family adventure. Penny and Peter Leveque kept us all exploring, learning and laughing along the CCT, and we still got to fire the cannon at Fort Ross!

It was a quintessential Coastwalk summer, complete with campfires, great meals provided by dedicated volunteers, new friendships being made and unbeatable day hike adventures. Coastwalk noticed that over 90% of our participants chose to register for summer programs using our new on-line registration system. We hope that you will continue to find this service convenient and easy to use. Please give us any feedback you may have about this new system: wtaraja@coastwalk.org.

The Coastwalk team, consisting of Julie Sicaud, Administrative Assistant, Leila Rand, Graphics and Webmaster, and Willow Taraja, Events Coordinator, recently welcomed our newest member, Judy Rosales, Trail Steward. This talented and dedicated group is hard at work making our mission a reality.

Our first order of business as a team is to bring you this newsletter. You haven't seen one for a while, as the organization has spent the last year bringing some exciting new systems on line. Now we're back, with news about the coast, access issues, and our progress in getting the California Coastal Trail completed. Look for regular e-Newsletters to keep you abreast of developments and opportunities to participate. If you are not on our email list yet, sign up on our website: www.coastwalk.org. It is our hope to be communicating with most of you exclusively electronically soon. (Think Green! Save a Tree!)

Coastwalk is turning 25 years old! Can you believe it? Do you have any ideas about how we might celebrate? Stay tuned for information about our October Reunion Weekend, where we'll discuss our plans for next year. Here are some ideas we are talking about: a re-enactment of the 1983 historic first Coastwalk! We're beefing up our Coastal Clean-up, Trail Maintenance, and Day Hike programs. And, we'll be installing the CCT insignia all up and down the coast. Needless to say, we must have a great big, fabulous party! Send your ideas to edefalla@coastwalk.org.

As I look back at our amazing accomplishments and then toward our future work, I feel a great deal of pride in being part of a statewide, volunteer driven, grassroots organization that has lasted for a full quarter century. Our success is due in large part to our mission—we are the embodiment of the powerful love Californians have for the coast and of the value we all place on having access to it. It is due in equal measure to our volunteers, members and donors, who know how important it is to support the work of the only California non-profit dedicated to completing the CCT, and to making sure that responsible access to the California coast remains a priority for the public and our elected representatives. Thanks to each of you who have been a part of this great effort, and welcome to all of you just coming aboard!

Dreading the winter blahs?

Come hike the Trail on one of our coastal day hikes! Check out the day hikes section on our website for hikes near you. Check often, as hikes are added frequently!



Fiona



Alyssa B. DeVille

These incredible drawings were made using colored pencils by young participants in the 2007 SF Bay Family Adventure. To see more amazing artwork by young Coastwalkers, visit the 2007 SF Bay Family Adventure page on the Coastwalk website: www.coastwalk.org



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Name (first & last): _____

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Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Sign me up for the
Coastwalk e-newsletter

Membership Category:

\$20/month for 1 year (Sustaining Member) *your credit card will be charged once a month for the next 12 months*

\$25 (Individual) \$45 (Family) \$100 (Steward) \$200+ (Trailblazer)

Check enclosed (made payable to Coastwalk) Visa MasterCard

Name on credit card: _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Please fax or mail this form to: Coastwalk, 825 Gravenstein Hwy. North, #8, Sebastopol, CA 95472, fax: (707) 829-0326