

THE NEWSLETTER OF COASTWALK

Saving the California Coast One Step at a Time

Summer 2005

Coastwalk has made a commitment to supporting the next generation of coastal stewards. We are proud to have initiated a summer event specifically for youth leaders involved in environmental causes - the CoastTrek 4 Youth. We partnered with youth groups from Ocean Revolution (from the Blue Ocean Institute), Adventure Crew, and Summerfield Waldorf School

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to create a fun and educational two-day event. We hope that this pilot program will be duplicated throughout the state to involve more youth in protecting the California coastline and in helping to complete the Coastal Trail. The Coastwalk staff worked hard to put together this event. Special thanks to Coastwalk board member Katie Seward who showed amazing leadership abilities in coordinating this event.

"That was sooooo cool..."

By Jon Breyfogle

These words, yelled out by Bryce Macmath as he hurtled through the air at the Four Winds ropes course at Ocean Song Preserve in rural Sonoma County, were my greeting to Coastwalk's "CoastTrek 4 Youth".

I had just delivered the chuck wagon and, hearing voices in the nearby woods, went over to investigate. I found the site of the ropes course and Coastwalk's teenaged participants. Designed to build teamwork and leadership qualities, the course's finale was something

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We're Building a Movement

Dear Coastwalk: We lived in the San Jose area for eight years and ... moved back to Colorado... However, home is where the heart is and, as the years go by, our longing to go home increases...When we return, we want to see a state as beautiful and accessible as when we left. We're not wealthy enough to buy our own dream on the coast and, even if we were, we would always allow the people access to THEIR LAND. We're thankful for organizations like yours and we wish you success in

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Maree Fink Award to Bob Cowell

We are happy to announce Bob Cowell as the 2005 recipient of Coastwalk's Maree Fink Award.

Bob has served on the Coastwalk board since 1994; he organized and led the Lost Coast Backpack for several years and in 1996 hiked from Oregon to the Mexican border. The Coastwalk family has always appreciated his calm demeanor and quiet enthusiasm as he promoted our goals of coastal protection and access and completion of the CCT. Thank you, Bob, for your efforts on behalf of the coast.

The Fink award was created to recognize Maree, an early behind-the-scenes volunteer who tirelessly promoted Coastwalk. She completed a summer Coastwalk every year from 1983 to 1994, and was the first to walk in all 15 coastal counties. The award recognizes our incredible volunteers who do as Maree did: work behind the scenes for the good of the coast and the organization, expecting nothing in return beyond our thanks and appreciation.

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.

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Sizzling Prizes in Coastwalk's First Annual Raffle!

Have you bought your Raffle Tickets yet? Don't miss your chance to support Coastwalk and be the lucky winner of a Coastwalk Trip for Two, a Kelty backpack, a custom-made pair of tidepooling booties, a stay at a fabulous B&B or a magical Moonlight Paddle in SF Bay, to name just a small sampling! Incredible prizes are being added weekly! To see a complete list of prizes, check the Coastwalk website - www.coastwalk.org/raffle.htm.

To get your tickets, contact the Coastwalk office right away: 800-550-6854.

The drawing will be held on September 17th, National Coastal Cleanup Day!

your endeavor to protect access to what belongs to all Californians... What a great, beautiful state you have. Please do what you can to protect it from those few who are too greedy to share it. -Walt Heidenfelder, Lakewood, CO

In everything Coastwalk does, we keep our eyes on the big prize – guaranteed statewide coastal access for all. All our activities - advocacy for completion of the California Coastal Trail, involvement in large-scale efforts like revitalizing the Los Angeles Harbor area and smaller ones like restoring state park trails, our summer Coastwalks and year-round day-hikes – are fueled by this grand vision.

Although the goal is sweeping, the struggle to preserve coastal access is made up of many small efforts. The citizens who educate themselves, attend planning meetings and study local plans are the true grass roots of the access movement. Coastwalk was founded by activists like these, and we believe that our most important work is empowering people to defend their local stretch of coast. For example:

Dear (Coastwalk Director) Richard Nichols: Last evening we met with a group of Carlsbad homeowners and Ponto Beach lovers that have formed the Ponto Action Committee to influence the Ponto Beachfront Vision Plan through legal and political means. We have decided to join them in their effort. We shared with them your CCT book and the section about the coastal wetlands of Southern California. They were very impressed. They would like to paraphrase that section in their educational materials to try to educate and motivate others to join in this effort... (We) will also be contacting State Parks, Fish and Game, local state legislators, the media, the city council, and others to try to influence the decision on the Ponto plan... Thanks for your inspiration. - Shelley and Greg

When these Carlsbad locals wanted to save their last piece of open coastal land from massive development, they contacted Coastwalk. Director Richard Nichols spent time advising them, and they came away with ideas and contacts, inspired and hopeful about the possibility of saving their coast.

A large part of what we do is behind-the-scenes, seemingly small work like this. We have advised and collaborated with many individuals and groups up and down the state who have become impassioned to save a beloved stretch of sand from development or privatization.

The coastal movement needs everyone who loves the beach – not only those who are actively defending a local stretch of coast - to join in. We are only as strong as people want us to be. If you have not yet become a Coastwalk member, we urge you to join us now, with the membership form on the back of this newsletter, or online at *www.coastwalk.org*. If you are already a member, we invite you to make a tax-deductible contribution today, in the name of coastal access. Call our Development Director Sasha Rose Schaible at 800-550-6854 to discuss a bequest or other long-term options.

Let's save Ponto Beach. Let's revitalize the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor coastal communities. Let's enjoy the once-"private" beaches in Malibu and all the stretches of coastline that are being preserved by land trusts, statewide agencies and local citizen groups, every month. Join us.

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that for me would be extremely daunting: after climbing some 40 feet up an old fir and clipping their climbing harness onto a cable stretching down the hillside, the kids, one by one, took the step that sent them hurtling through the air. Not your average Coastwalk activity!

Katie Seward, Coastwalk board member, long time Del Norte County Coastwalk volunteer, and a recent high school graduate, served as on-site leader and coordinator for the walk. Camping sites around the main building at Ocean Song were chosen, and Coastwalk member Pamela Noel served dinner with the Pacific Ocean in the distant background.

The next morning looked a little bit more like the standard Coastwalk we are all used to: sleepy people wandered in the fog (both external and internal), made

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Report from the Trail

By Rob Helms, Trail Steward for the Coastwalk CCT Project



Coastal Trail Committees:

In Mendocino County, Coastwalk held a July meeting to discuss potential CCT projects within the parklands on the Mendocino coast. Staff from the State Coastal Conservancy (SCC), State Parks, Mendocino Land Trust, and the Mendocino Area Parks Association (MAPA) identified a CCT gap and maintenance needs from Pudding Creek

Trestle south to the Mendocino Headlands State Park as a priority. The proposed project will focus on improving the Headlands bluff-top trails while creating proper linkages to surrounding state parks. The SCC is now investigating this project's potential; if it is approved, our next step will be to obtain funding.

Los Angeles County: we are one step closer to realizing the vision of a 10-mile trail connection, beginning at Point Fermin and the "Sunken City" in San Pedro and ending at the Queensway pedestrian walkway in Long Beach. Recently, Coastwalk CCT Committee volunteers in Los Angeles applied for technical assistance on this project from the National Parks Service - Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). If we are granted this opportunity, RTCA will facilitate meetings between project advocates, stakeholders and elected officials so that we can develop a trail stewardship and outreach program for the link.

In Marin County, after a showing of the KQED *Coastal Clash* documentary in Point Reyes Station in August, local residents updated Coastwalk staff on their attempts to create a trail on the eastern side of Tomales Bay near the Bay town of Inverness. Coastwalk will investigate the potential of this trail to serve as a link between Inverness south to nearby parklands. If feasible, this could be an important connection in the CCT.

CCT Activities:

We now have volunteers working on GPS point mapping for the Coastal Trail Project in Humboldt, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties.

Welcome to our new office volunteer, Jennifer Petuya, who will be assisting in the outreach for and coordination of our day hikes program. We have several hikes coming up in Los Angeles, Sonoma, San Diego and elsewhere - keep checking the day hikes page on our website - www.coastwalk.org/Hikes/dayhikes.htm - to learn about upcoming hikes in your area.

Upcoming Events:

Coastwalk teams up with REI to host this year's annual California Coastal Beach Cleanup at Sonoma County's Doran Regional Park in Bodega Bay. Participants will meet at Cypress Day Use parking lot at 9 am on Saturday, September 17th. The event lasts from 9-12, followed by a barbecue and sand castle competition. If you are interested in participating in or coordinating a Coastal Cleanup in your area, contact Willow Taraja in the Coastwalk office: 800-550-6854 or wtaraja@coastwalk.org.



Take the Bus

Public transportation lost its luster with the rise of the automobile, but we're hoping that it is making a comeback. In the urban centers along the coast, public transit is available to hikers who wish to walk the Coastal Trail, but in more rural coastal counties it is nearly nonexistent. Sonoma County Transit took steps to remedy this situation by adding a summer weekend coastal bus route with an emphasis on the Kortum Trail section of the CCT. We welcome this great public service, and encourage people to get out of their cars and use Route 29 from Santa Rosa, through Sebastopol and on to the coast. Call 707–576-RIDE or visit www.sctransit.com for more information. Thanks go to Coastwalk member Dana Zimmerman for his hard work on this project.

Coastal Big Bucks

The economic value of the California coast is huge. A new report by California's State Resources Agency calculates that in 2000, ocean-related economic activity was valued at \$42.9 billion, and provided 408,000 jobs and \$11.4 billion in wages and salaries. About half of this is attributed to recreation and tourism. The report supports the state's environmental efforts along the coast, including reduction of coastal pollution, conservation of marine life, and protection of beaches and other natural resources, and, by extension, the work of Coastwalk and other coastal advocacy groups. Six economic sectors were examined in the report.

No to Oil Drilling

Fearing the prospect of oil and gas drilling off the Northern California coast, Sen. Barbara Boxer and Rep. Lynn Woolsey appeared recently at a press conference in San Francisco with marine scientists and conservationists to promote legislation that would expand the boundaries of two national marine sanctuaries. The Coastal Commission, for its part, has urged Congress not to extend oil leases in Southern California waters.

San Diego - Small Steps on the Trail

Recently a master plan to guide development and aid in the protection of the 68-acre Sunset Park was given formal approval by the state Coastal Commission. It clears the way for San Diego to apply for grants to improve the park and hire a consultant to conduct drainage studies. Coastwalk is offering to help with the planning of the CCT segment.

The residents of Carlsbad recently stood up in protest over city plans for the remaining coastal land open at Ponto Beach. The City Council was dissuaded from approving a planning document for massive development on the site, and will require a full environmental report before proceeding, giving locals a voice in the process. Coastwalk, Surfrider Foundation and Sierra Club all provided support for the residents.

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their breakfast at the chuck wagon and broke camp. By 8 a.m. they were gone, on their way to Fort Ross where they met up with Rob Helms, Coastwalk's Trail Steward and hike leader for the day, who talked to them about his work on the California Coastal Trail.

Those of us who have walked the 7 miles from Fort Ross to Russian Gulch along Sonoma County's "Lost Coast" know that it is a challenge. Beach rocks patiently await the unsuspecting hiker, each rock looking serenely benign but in reality silently eager to twist an ankle. This particular walk was made a little more challenging by a higher than desirable tide. Along the way the beach was scoured for trash: 8 full bags were gathered and hauled out. At Mermaid Pool there was a stop for a swim; probably the first time Coastwalkers have swum there since Brenda Nichols' plunge in the 1980's!

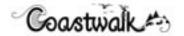
By 5 pm this two-day adventure was over, and some tired, inspired and happy kids were on their way home.





CoastTrek 4 Youth photos courtesy of Jeffrey L. Brown - www.jeffreybrown.com. You can see more photos online at: homepage.mac.com/jeffreylamontbrown/OR/PhotoAlbum198.html

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Join Coastwalk and join the movement for coastal access!

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|---|---|
| Name (if gift, put recipient's name): | Email: |
| Address: | City, State, Zip: |
| Phone Number: | How did you hear about Coastwalk? |
| Have you been on a Coastwalk? Yes Not Yet | If yes, which one(s)?: |
| ☐ This membership is a gift from: | ☐ Please contact me about volunteering |
| $\hfill\Box$ I'm already a member $\hfill\Box$ I'm not joining at this time | Here's my donation in the amount of : |
| Here's my check in the amount offor the membership level below: | |
| □ \$25 (Individ.) □ \$45 (Family) □ \$15 (Student/Senior) | □ \$100 (Steward) □ \$200+ (Trailblazer) □ \$700 (Lifetime) |
| I'll use my credit card: Type (please circle one): Visa | Mastercard American Express |
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