



COASTWALKER

THE NEWSLETTER OF COASTWALK CALIFORNIA
Leading the way on the California Coastal Trail

Fall 2008

A Note from Executive Director Una Glass

Hello Coastwalkers,

I have been Executive Director at Coastwalk since June and I am thrilled with my new job! Coastwalk is a great organization, one that is truly run by its wonderful volunteers... those who lead the walks, cook for campers, put up signs on the California Coastal Trail and attend public hearings on coastal issues. The variety of work done by our volunteers is



amazing! I am honored to be a part of such a great team, really making a difference in preserving and sharing the California Coast.

Our 2008 walks season was a great success and we are planning our 2009 season now. I am excited that long time Coastwalk leaders Richard and Brenda Nichols have agreed to chair this year's walks committee. They and their team are busy planning a fantastic 2009 walks season. Check our website for walks news as it develops.

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California Coastal Trail Day - October 11, 2008

The State Legislature passed a joint resolution (sponsored by John Laird and Tom Torlakson) proclaiming October 11, 2008 California Coastal Trail Day, in honor of Coastwalk's 25th anniversary (see pg. 2)

Coastwalk California Is...

THE COASTWALK MISSION:

To ensure the right of all people to reach and responsibly enjoy the California coast.

THE COASTWALK VISION:

A well-stewarded California coast, highly prized as an irreplaceable commons, open to all.

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25th Anniversary Bash

Coastwalk celebrated our 25th anniversary (can you believe it?) in style, with a great party in Sebastopol on October 11, 2008. Over a hundred Coastwalkers, including several who had attended the first ever Coastwalk in 1983, enjoyed a delicious dinner and gourmet wine, a raffle and silent auction, and a moving awards ceremony honoring our coastal heroes.

Earlier in the day, at a luncheon with the Board of Directors, **Assemblyman John Laird** (D, Santa Cruz) accepted Coastwalk's 2008 Legislator of the Year award. Laird was honored for his unwavering support for coastal preservation and the California Coastal Trail. He authored ACR 153 proclaiming October 11, 2008 as California Coastal Trail Day in California. He also spearheaded public and legislative efforts to defeat the governor's proposal to close 48 state parks and beaches in the state. He passed eight bills and resolutions this year, creating the State Parks Preservation Board, promoting sustainable marine fisheries, providing open space protections and offering Limekiln State Park wilderness protection. Last year Mr. Laird authored and passed AB 1396, a significant law that requires the state's regional transportation plans to include the California Coastal Trail and CalTrans to offer surplus lands for coastal trail alignments. Although Mr. Laird is leaving the Assembly this term, he will continue to work closely with Coastwalk to encourage Big Sur's Coastal Trail master planning process with the community and stakeholders.

At the evening gala, the Maree Fink Award was presented to **Linda Hanes**, behind-the-scenes volunteer extraordinaire, for her tireless, and often thankless, work for Coastwalk. **Lou Wilkinson**, long-time leader of Coastwalk's efforts in Marin, received the Volunteer of the Year award, while **Nancy Graves** received the Richard Nichols Trail Steward award for her brilliant efforts on behalf of the CCT in San Luis Obispo. A group of attendees were recognized for having participated in Coastwalks in every single coastal county, and representatives of Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and Assemblywoman Pat Wiggins, along with Tim Duff of the Coastal Conservancy, praised Coastwalk's 25 years of advocacy and activism. It was a classic Coastwalk evening—both poignant and a lot of fun.

Summer Walks 2009

Coastwalk's Summer Walks Committee is working hard to bring a great schedule of 2009 walks to life, emphasizing the Coastwalk "classic," affordable approach to exploring the coast: camping, hiking, camaraderie, education and fun. We'll explore the redwoods of Humboldt, the wildflower splendor of the Santa Monica Mountains, the rugged Mendocino and Sonoma coastlines, warm and toasty Santa Barbara, the wilds of Marin and the glory of San Francisco. You might sleep in a Russian fort, on an island, or in a tent in a coastal state park. We'll visit lighthouses, aquariums, isolated beaches, rugged coves and city landscapes.

Please join us next summer in exploration of one of our fine coastal counties and discover sites and sounds you may not know about. Look for dates and fees and registration online in late January at www.coastwalk.org

-Richard Nichols



Honoring the past, looking to the future. Board member and UC Berkeley student Amy Purvis with founder Bill Kortum.

Our New Name and Other Big News

by President Fran Gibson

Coastwalk leaps into our next quarter-century with a new name—**Coastwalk California**.

Many of you were present when we unveiled our new name at our 25th anniversary party for our organization. The Board of Directors voted the new name to telegraph quickly to policy makers and the public our full statewide focus as a nonprofit.

We now have a small second office in San Francisco and are looking for shared space with another nonprofit in Southern California. This expansion allows us to raise our visibility and effectiveness statewide in a way we have never known.

The 25th Anniversary Bash (see page 2) was a great success and we heard from a number of elected officials congratulating us on our progress over the last quarter century of service to the coast of California. Assemblyman John Laird, recipient of our Legislator of the Year award, acknowledged Coastwalk's leadership in promoting and signing the California Coastal Trail statewide and encouraged us to continue advocating for the coast and the CCT.

Our energetic new Executive Director Una Glass is moving us forward as we take on an even greater role in signing the Coastal Trail and promoting the coast through our programs like the summer walks, day hikes and beach clean-ups.

We have planned a robust season of summer walks for next year thanks to the leadership of Richard and Brenda Nichols, and we look forward to seeing many of you as walkers and volunteers on our Coastwalks this coming summer.

Our major thrust will be to increase our membership and promote stewardship of the coast through trail and hiking programs. You are a major part of our past success and will determine how we move into the next phase of our life as the only statewide nonprofit dedicated to the California Coastal Trail as the means for preserving coastal access. Thank you all for the support and trust you have shown to me and your Board of Directors!

Tides & Trails

Naples Development

In late October, by a three to two vote, the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors approved a proposal by an Orange County developer: 71 mansions to sprawl across nearly 1,000 acres of highly valuable agricultural lands along the Gaviota coast. The Board also adopted revised project conditions and development agreements that operate to tie the hands of future Boards of Supervisors and constrain the Coastal Commission's ability to fully review the project.

Over 100 different approvals were granted in Supervisor Firestone's motion to approve the project as proposed. A deeply flawed environmental impact report was accepted as adequate by the three supervisors, even though the project description was substantially revised in May after the final EIR was released, and in the face of a last minute letter from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service voicing substantial concerns over the project's impact analysis.

The Naples Coalition announced that it will appeal the Supervisors' actions to the Coastal Commission and the Superior Court. "In their haste to get this project approved before Supervisor Firestone left office, gross procedural errors were made. These errors and violations of law provide a fertile field for challenges to the Board action and keep open the door for a far superior outcome at Naples" stated the Coalition's attorney, Marc Chytilo.

Continue to stay informed through regular visits to:
www.GaviotaAction.org or www.SaveNaples.org

-Naples Coalition

5600 acre Jenner Headland Property Purchased for the Public

A deal to save a rugged stretch of coastal hills on the Sonoma County coast near Jenner, among the largest privately held properties along the California coast, closed recently in what is called the largest conservation acquisition in Sonoma County history.

The 5600 acre property was purchased for \$36 million with funds from six agencies including the Sonoma Land Trust, the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District and Coastal Conservancy. The California Coastal Trail is expected to be developed across 3 miles of terrace, with spectacular views, from Russian Gulch to the town of Jenner.

-Richard Nichols



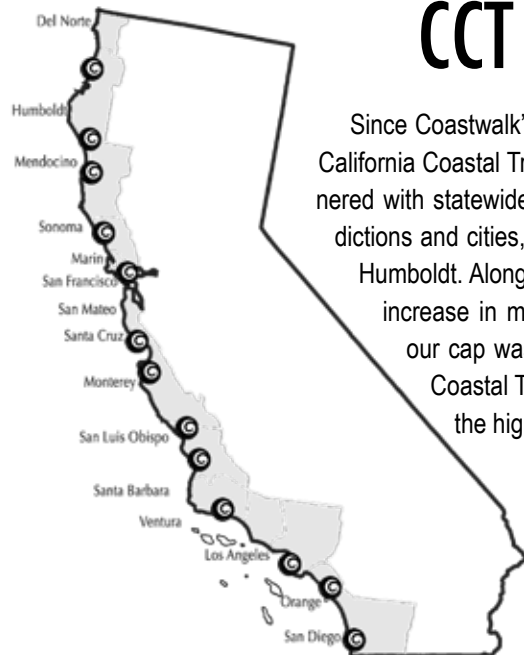
News from the

CALIFORNIA COASTAL TRAIL

Fall, 2008

CCT Signage Program Takes Off

Since Coastwalk's last newsletter last May, our ambitious program to install signs along the California Coastal Trail statewide has hit its stride. In less than six months, Coastwalk has partnered with statewide organizations like the Coastal Conservancy and State Parks, local jurisdictions and cities, other non-profits and even individuals to sign the Trail from San Diego to Humboldt. Along the way we've increased local awareness of the Trail through a significant increase in media coverage of the signage program and the Trail. A major feather in our cap was the California Assembly's declaration of October 11, 2008 as "California Coastal Trail Day" (see front page). Below, heading from south to north, are some of the highlight events from an exciting time on the Trail:



Spanish Landing, Port of San Diego

The very first CCT insignia in San Diego County were installed on May 31, 2008. Port officials and representatives of the Coastal Conservancy and Coastwalk were in attendance. A beautiful day hike along the CCT capped off the day of celebration.



Coastwalk president Fran Gibson, Tim Duff of the CCC, Michael Bixler, Chairman, Board of Port Commissioners, and Sylvia Thompson, Office of the Governor, in San Diego



San Clemente, Orange County

On October 3, 2008, a crowd of approximately 200 people gathered for the

dedication ceremony announcing the connection of San Clemente's Beach Trail to the California Coastal Trail. The event was a collaborative effort between the City of San Clemente, Coastwalk, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Signing, *continued next page*



Thank you to major funders for the CCT Signage Program: the California Coastal Conservancy and PG&E

Pismo Beach, Grover Beach & Oceano, San Luis Obispo County

In July, 2008, 34 new California Coastal Trail insignia were erected along nine miles of coastline in Pismo Beach, beginning at the Bluffs Coastal Trail in Shell Beach and ending at the Oceano Memorial Park & Campground. Coastwalk board members and Executive Director Una Glass joined city staff and members of the community in a brief ceremony.



Coastwalk E.D. Una Glass and Board Member Nancy Graves along with SLO County supervisor and Coastal Commissioner Katcho Achadjian, the mayors of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach, and representatives from State Parks and SLOCOG. Photo courtesy Richard Nichols.

West Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz County

On September 20, 2008, Coastwalk, in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz and Save Our Shores, celebrated the California coast with annual Coastal Cleanup Day and a dedication ceremony announcing the signage of the Coastal Trail along West Cliff Drive. Santa Cruz Mayor Ryan Coonerty presented a proclamation to Coastwalk and Save Our Shores for working to raise awareness for two important issues for the California coast, coastal access and coastal preservation.



Corey Cline, UC Santa Cruz student, and Lee Otter of the Coastal Commission

Patrick's Point, Humboldt County

On July 10, 2008 the Coastal Trail at Patrick's Point was signed by a group of Coastwalkers out on the magnificent north coast for Coastwalk's Classic Humboldt adventure. The trail weaves through old growth redwoods with spectacular bluff top views of the Pacific Ocean.



\$2 Million for Coastal Trail in Humboldt

California State Coastal Conservancy Board Approves Nearly \$2 Million for Humboldt County Coastal Trail Efforts

The Coastal Conservancy Board approved \$900,000 (from the 2002 Proposition 40 Bond Act) for the Redwood Community Action Agency (RCAA)—a non-profit based in Eureka—to work with the local, state and federal jurisdictions in Humboldt County to develop a master plan for the Coastal Trail through the county. With this plan, the RCAA will work with those jurisdictions to identify priority trail projects and then plan, design, permit and write grants for as many of those projects as is possible within the two-year project time frame. The Humboldt County Public Works Department will work in close partnership with the RCAA. Segments of the trail system currently exist in several wildland and urban areas such as the King Range National Recreation Area, Redwood National & State Parks, and Cities of Eureka and Arcata, and the Hammond Trail in McKinleyville.

The City of Arcata was awarded \$1.065 million to study feasibility, develop plans, environmental review and permits for nearly four miles of rail-with-trail from the City's mid-town Skate Park to the Bracut Marsh, approximately one mile south of town. This effort will require negotiation with the North Coast Railroad Authority to determine parameters for use of the out-of-service railroad right-of-way.

-Jen Rice, RCAA

Marine Protected Areas

More than 100 years ago, the United States began protecting our terrestrial natural wonders by creating national parks like Yosemite and Yellowstone. Today, California is doing the same for our ocean by establishing offshore protected areas. These undersea Yosemites will help ensure wild, healthy oceans for future generations to use and enjoy.

What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) work much like our national parks on land. The size and level of protection varies, but MPAs are designed to protect some or all of an ocean area's wildlife and habitat. Unlike traditional fisheries management tools, which regulate one species at a time, MPAs focus on protecting entire ecosystems—from predators to prey.

MPAs preserve the ocean's natural heritage and intrinsic value, and are a powerful tool to conserve and restore ocean biodiversity. They may also provide benefits to cultural resources and can help sustain local economies. In addition, MPAs contribute to healthier, more resilient ocean ecosystems that can better withstand a wide range of impacts from pollution to climate change.

What are Marine Reserves?

While many different types of MPAs contribute to conservation, the greatest benefits are associated with marine reserves. Marine reserves, also known as fully protected or no-take MPAs, prohibit all fishing, mineral extraction, and other habitat-altering activities. Marine reserves allow fish, mammals, and other marine life to breed, feed, and thrive. In a scientific survey of over 100 reserves worldwide, scientists found that fish are larger, more abundant, and more diverse within such protected areas.

Why we need Marine Protected Areas

Since the 1950s, our oceans have lost more than 90 percent of the big fish that humans rely on for food, income, and recreation. We are catching more fish than our oceans can replace. The methods used to catch fish commercially can pose additional threats to marine health, including bycatch and habitat destruction.

Extensive scientific research demonstrates that MPAs, and particularly marine reserves, can help bring back big fish, restore habitats, and provide a buffer against future threats like oil spills and climate change. California is already seeing the benefits of MPAs at the Channel Islands, where early scientific studies show wildlife populations on the increase.

How we benefit

Marine protected areas provide economic, recreational, and environmental benefits to people, whether they live on the water's edge or far inland. They can serve as "savings banks" for California's commercially and recreationally important species, by restoring fish populations inside the MPA which can then help replenish nearby waters. This "spillover" effect can benefit both fishermen and seafood consumers.

Around the world, marine reserves serve as some of the most popular scuba-diving destinations. These protected ocean places also provide wonderful opportunities for activities like bird watching and kayaking. Healthy marine habitats help sustain local economies while ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same quality of life.

Activists are working to bring MPAs to Southern California. We invite all Coastwalkers in the area to get involved in this great project. To learn more, contact Jenn Feinberg, Ocean Policy Consultant with the Natural Resources Defense Council - (415) 350-0976 or jennfeinberg.nrdc@gmail.com, or visit the Caloceans website: <http://www.caloceans.org/signup>.

Director, continued from page 1

We had a spectacularly successful 25th Anniversary party where lots of old friends got together. We honored our volunteers with awards for outstanding service and enjoyed contributions by some of our new partners.

We are very grateful for the wonderful support we have received from so many companies, groups and individuals. PG&E has very generously given us support to help us with our work on the California Coastal Trail and the Sonoma County Water Agency helped us with Coastal Cleanup Day. As always the Coastal Conservancy has been our primary partner in our California Coastal Trail signage program. We depend on the generous support of so many in helping us to fulfill our mission.

We have many plans for the upcoming year including more work on the Coastal Trail and outreach to new partners so we can be even more effective in advocating for coastal protection and preservation. We will keep you posted!

All the best,

Una J M Glass, Executive Director

Save a Tree! Join our Email List!

Joining our email list is the best way to get up-to-date information and to stay in touch with the Coastwalk community.

Go to our website—www.coastwalk.org—and click to join our email list on the home page. **AOL users - remember to "unblock" Coastwalk !**

In Memorium

Bill Anderson passed away this September at age 89. Bill helped free prisoners from concentration camps during WWII and worked on peace and social justice issues, including three peace walks in the Soviet Union. In the 1980's Bill was a regular and much liked participant of our summer Coastwalks. Donations in Bill's honor can be made to Habitat for Humanity, www.habitat.org

Farmer G – **Elmer Wilson Grimes** – passed away September 1st in his 95th year. From 1994, when Coastwalk had its first summer hike in Los Angeles County, Farmer G, his wife, Sararuth, and daughter, Sunshine, were a part of the hikes.

To Farmer G, trails were not just for recreation. Unpaved circulation corridors were essential for national defense, maintenance of wildlife gene-pools, and for response to natural disasters and local emergencies. He did what he could to support Coastwalk because he could conceive of the possibility that the survival of the United States of America could depend on the California Coastal Trail.

Charles Rhinehart died peacefully on October 26, 2008. He was born in 1922 in Sugar Pine, California at a logging camp where his father was employed. Chuck served in the US Army and Merchant Marines during World War II and earned an MA in Education/Administration from Stanford. In 1961, he became one of the original faculty of Sonoma State University. Chuck was one of the founders of COAAST: Californians Organized to Acquire Access to State Tidelands, his acronym; a member of the board of 37 years, current president. COAAST had all to do with the acquisition of public trails through Sea Ranch and had a major role in the establishment of the California Coastal Commission. His most recent achievement was a two year effort toward the realization of another coastal access, the Short-tail Gulch Trail Project dedicated in May 2004.

Wondering About Your Summer Walks Volunteer Credits?

Would you like to apply your volunteer credits to a Coastwalk this summer? We encourage you to do so, and want to clarify any confusion surrounding volunteer credits. The office will honor your volunteer hours regardless of when they were accumulated. Starting in 2009, walks volunteers should notify their coordinator of what they did and the number of hours worked. The coordinators will relay this information to the office, which allow us to track volunteer hours (this is important for grant applications!). Participants using volunteer credits need to register for a walk by phone rather than on-line. We look forward to hearing from our volunteers when registration begins in February!

Join Today!

\$5 a month
automatic payment on
your credit card

OR

**\$30 for basic individual
membership**

Great Membership Deal!

For the price of a latte you can help complete the California Coastal Trail!

When you join Coastwalk California with a monthly installment of **just \$5** on your credit card (\$60 per year), we will send you one of our new Coastwalk baseball caps as a thank you.

We rely on **your** membership contributions to do our important work. Without your help, we cannot afford the office space, computers, phones or staff to put on our annual Coastwalks, advocate for the coast and Coastal Trail or support our Trail Stewardship and Signage Project.

If you are not a current member, please join today! We also really appreciate donations from existing members and from new members who want to give more.

Please use the enclosed remittance envelope to send in your membership contribution or go online: www.coastwalk.org



Big Sur Coast

Congratulations to our ***Name that Coastal Place*** winner Felisa Hoogendyk. Felisa was the only person who correctly guessed the location of the photo at left, which was posted in our Spring 2008 newsletter and on the home page of our website.

Felisa says: "I live in Salinas and Big Sur is less than an hour from our home. Our family has a lot of fond memories of camping in the area. Beautiful. I'm anxious to go see the area after the fire."

Felisa won a Coastwalk tee-shirt. Thanks to all who played, and thanks to Jon Breyfogle for providing the photo!

COASTWALK *California*

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Linda Hanes accepting the Maree Fink Award from longtime board member Emily De Falla.



Rep. John Laird accepting the Legislator of the Year Award from Coastwalk board members Richard Nichols and Fran Gibson.



Coastwalk founders Bill and Lucy Kortum, and Tom and Vivian McFarling, reminisced about Coastwalk's humble beginnings.