Wonder

Discovery

Responsibility

Stewardship

November 2016

Dear Park Supporter:

The child's hand shot up in the air. She was practically jumping off the campfire center's bench in her eagerness to answer Interpreter Kristin's question; "What adaptations help Gray Whales survive in the ocean?" She had participated in Kristin's Junior Ranger program at MacKerricher State Park earlier that day and had learned all about the special adaptations that help animals survive in their environment.

Can you remember the first time you were exposed to a wonder of nature? How your mind expanded to include a whole new world around you that you never noticed before? Can you remember the joy and delight of learning about and connecting to that world?

The Mendocino Area Parks Association (MAPA) believes that providing programs like these can launch a lifetime commitment of caring for and protecting nature. With your help we will expand the hours of our state park interpreters, allowing them to plan and produce more quality programming, both in the parks and in school classrooms.

Pictured to the right is another MAPA funded naturalist, Paige, engaging children in a program on the life cycle of the salmon. Scenes like this remind us that every state park is a promise to future generations. It is a promise that these parks, and the natural resources they protect, will be here for these children's grandchildren. For over 30 years, MAPA supporters like you have helped make certain that this promise is fulfilled in the State Parks that MAPA supports. Educating the visiting public about the value of protecting our parks is one way to ensure the ongoing preservation of these vital resources.

You probably know that MAPA is its own separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which serves as a bridge between our local communities and California State Parks. While MAPA works closely with California State Parks, and operates under their guidelines, our commitment is to build cooperation and collaboration between our local communities and the leadership of the California State Parks.

Here is a partial list of MAPA's current commitments to some of our local State Parks:

- **MacKerricher State Park**: We support operation of the visitor center and park naturalist programs.
- **Russian Gulch State Park**: We support park naturalist programs.
- **Mendocino Headlands State Park**: We support operation of the Ford House Visitor Center and Museum, fund the Ford House Manager, plan and fund exhibits and events, and support state park naturalist programs.
- **Van Damme State Park**: We support operation of the visitor center and park naturalist programs.
- **Elk/Greenwood State Beach**: We support operation of the visitor center and park naturalist programs.
- **Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area**: We are responsible for complete operation of this 1,021 acre, 161 campsite park; including administration, visitor services, maintenance, and park naturalist programs.

We think you will be proud to know that, with your support, MAPA was able to accomplish the following this past year:

- **Invested in education:** We funded and producing natural and cultural history programs. We supported hundreds of tours, guided walks, school field trips, information stations, evening campfire programs, and Jr. Ranger programs in our state parks.
- **Worked to improve State Park facilities:** In **MacKerricher SP** MAPA has been raising funds to renovate the Campfire center and contributed significantly to the repair of a section of the Lake Cleone boardwalk. At **Van Damme SP** MAPA has raised the funds needed to replace the roofs on two of the Spring Ranch Barns. In **Mendocino Headlands SP** MAPA completed renovation plans for the public restrooms adjacent to the Ford House – the only public restrooms available in the town of Mendocino – and continue to work with CA State Parks to secure funding for the completion of the project.
- **Standish-Hickey SRA**: We repaired and renovated five rustic cabins. These cabins were used to house seasonal employees and our two student interns from Humboldt State University. The two HSU Recreation majors each spent ten weeks in the park, gaining experience in administration, visitor services, maintenance, and interpretation. This pilot program was wildly successful. The dedication and enthusiasm of these two young people gives us hope for the continued stewardship of our state parks!

MAPA is the only local nonprofit that has, at the core of its mission, the countywide support of services and programs in our amazing state parks. MAPA also works with organizations like the California State Parks Foundation on statewide issues of park advocacy with the legislature in Sacramento.

We hope we can count on your support again this coming year. We have big plans for 2017:

- **New Roofs for the Spring Ranch Barns**: The funding for the new roofs is secured! MAPA will continue to negotiate and advocate for the restoration of these historic treasures.
- **Docent Councils and Training:** We will work to establish docent councils at MacKerricher SP and Van Damme SP. Our docents will increase the number of visitors and students reached through our educational programs.
- **Internship Program at Standish-Hickey:** We are planning to expand our student internship program at Standish Hickey SRA in partnership with Humboldt State University.

Thank you so much for your past contribution to MAPA. We hope you feel we have put it to good use. We hope you will consider a gift of the same size, if not greater, as last year's gift if you are able. Your partnership with MAPA is vital to our success in protecting our state parks.

If you are in the area this summer we invite you to experience firsthand one of the many programs offered at our local parks. And please stop by and say "Hi" to us at the Ford House Visitor Center and Museum in Mendocino where our offices are located. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Docent lead whale walk at Spring Ranch, Van Damme SP

Sincerely,

Jenny Heckeroth, Executive Director

Kevin J. Williams, MAPA Board President

*Photo credits to Sam Gordon-Coddington and Keith Wyner

Enclosed is my year-end donation:

☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ Other _____

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