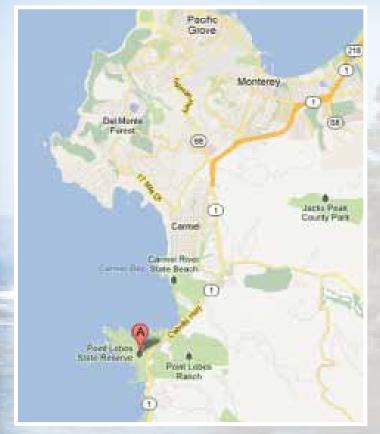
Volume 36 * Number 4

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POINT LOBOS





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The Mission Statement of the Point Lobos Foundation is to advance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Point Lobos State Natural Reserve, to protect its natural environment for future generations, and to strengthen the Monterey County network of coastal Califor-

Point Lobos Foundation

Route 1, Box 221789 Carmel, CA 93922 (831) 625-1470 www.pointlobos.org

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Docent Coordinator/School Group Coordinator Melissa Gobell

Cooperating Association Liaison Eric Abma

Point Lobos Magazine Editorial Director Dida Kutz dida@didakutz.org

Copyeditor Charles Schrammel

Photo Contributors Peter Berry Steven Castro Steven Dennis Eduardo Fujii M. Gonzales Don Hoffman Mara Kerr

Cover: Bluefish Cove courtesy Jack Wasserbach ("Magic of Point Lobos" photo contest entrant). montereyjack.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sandy Hale

halers Cabin has a new roof! Under the leadership of board member Augie Louis, a joint PLF-State Parks-docent-contractor team succeeded in installing a new barn-shake roof with minimal disruption to visitors and to the Cabin's resident bat population. While they were at it, they treated the Cabin for termites, and they currently are in the process of making other improvements such as re-glazing the windows.

California State Parks opened the Whalers Cabin museum in 1987, under the guidance of Kurt Loesch and a team of docents, to interpret the cultural history of the Point Lobos area; in 2007 it was added to the National Registry of Historic Places. Whalers Cabin was originally constructed by Chinese fishermen in 1851 and over the decades it was used by Portuguese whalers, Japanese abalone divers, World War II soldiers, and now-retired ranger Chuck Bancroft. The current re-roofing was the first major renovation of the building in 25 years.

We thank the California State Parks Foundation (in addition to their generous donation to the Summer Adventures program), Monterey Peninsula Foundation, and Monterey Peninsula Volunteer Services for providing grant funding, State Parks for providing in-kind support, and all of you who responded generously to our special Whalers Cabin appeal. Without all your support none of this would have been possible. With your support we have shown how the Foundation and the community can work cooperatively with California State Parks to maintain our local treasures at a time of severe state budget constraints. (See page 14 for more.)

This year's Moonlight Walk was a great success. Close to 150 PLF members enjoyed the camaraderie, food and wine, great music, and—appearing just in time for the walk led by "Ranger Chuck" Bancroft—the moon. We had outstanding items for the silent auction. I especially enjoyed reconnecting with former Point Lobos supervising ranger Glen McGowan and his wife Sandy, and with docents ranging from over 30

years of service to this year's new graduates.

Elsewhere in this issue we thank the members of the Special Events Committee and many others that worked so hard to make the Moonlight Walk a success. I also want to thank Ventana and Scheid wineries and California State Parks, especially Eric Abma, for their support.

he PLF is providing half the funding, up to \$250,000, for California State Parks to prepare a General Plan for the Point Lobos Reserve, the A.M. Allan Ranch directly across Route 1 from the Reserve, the Carmel River State Beach, and Hatton Canyon. We, and California State Parks, had hoped that the contractor would have fully described the baseline conditions and outlined options for all four properties by the end of this year. It now appears that this will not happen until next spring; we will keep you informed. Meanwhile, we will continue to push to strengthen the Reserve and for compatible uses at the adjacent properties. We also anticipate that, in close collaboration with other community organizations, we will help California raise funds for key initiatives coming out of the General Plan process.



Moonlight Walk photo by Steven Dennis.

Program Experiencing Point Lobos

by Stan Dryden

Long before I became a docent in 1999 we had an innovative program at Point Lobos called Adopt-a-School. In this program, a small team of docents gave a presentation at an "adopted" school and shortly thereafter hosted a field trip to Point Lobos. The Foundation, then called the Point Lobos Natural History Association, paid the cost of the school buses for the field trips. These events were very well received by the schools and enjoyed by the docents who participated. However, it required a great deal of organization and coordination. When the person coordinating the program left Point Lobos, nobody stepped forward to fill that role.

That program then ended, and for many years thereafter docents spoke fondly of it but were unable to find someone willing to take it on. Then docent Paul Mason stepped forward. He had been involved with a similar program at the Monterey Museum of Art, and used that experience to develop and implement the new incarnation of Adopta-School, which was called the School Outreach Program internally, and Experiencing Point Lobos in our communications with the schools. Many others have played key roles in bringing this new program to fruition, including Docent Coordinator Melissa Gobell, who schedules field trips with the schools, docent Mark Fisler, who schedules docent school-walk leaders, 5 docents who helped develop the in-school presentation, 15 docents who have presented programs in various schools, and 45 docents who lead the walks at Point Lobos.

This program differs from Adopt-a-School in that the docents who make presentations in the schools are not necessarily the same ones who lead the students on walks at Point Lobos. This change has streamlined the planning and given us more flexibility. Some docents give the in-school presentations, some give the walks, and some do both. One thing that has not changed is that the Point Lobos Foundation generously provides transportation grants to cover the cost of the school buses.

Another change is that this program—at least the transportation grant—is limited to Title 1 schools.



Docent Ralph Lauer describes what the students will see when they visit Point Lobos.

These are under-served schools that have many lowincome students. Many of the participating schools are in the Salinas Valley, and some of the children have never seen the ocean. Many of these children come from families in which the parents work very hard, under difficult conditions, just to provide for the necessities of life. With so much effort going into providing for shelter, food, clothing, education, and spiritual guidance, there is little opportunity, or money, to also let the children experience the beauty of Point Lobos and learn the wonders of nature.

After about a year of planning, the program started with the 2011-12 school year. In the fall and spring semesters combined, the program reached 1,400 students in 15 different schools. Over 20 presentations took place in the schools, followed by 25 visits to Point Lobos; these presentations and field trips were well received by students and educators. This year the applications for grants have exceeded our ability to provide walk leaders. Understandably, not all docents have the skills and confidence to interact confidently with children. Therefore, the docent organization has been unable to accommodate all requests, and has even left some of the money that the PLF is willing to contribute "on the table." The docents are working all the angles to increase the pool of walk leaders in order to offer this opportunity to more children.

Being new, this program is a work-in-progress, and probably always will be. Docents will continuously strive to improve the program that was so skillfully developed and implemented by Paul. We learned from the difficulties and implemented changes in the very first year, and will continue to hone all aspects of the program—scope, marketing, grantee selection process, ways of recruiting walk leaders, the in-school presentations, feedback from the schools, and more.



Fishhook and Claw

by M.A. Fink

The water of Whalers Cove pulled at its seaweed like an old man tugging at his hair. I sat on a lichen-encrusted log, fingering the bone fishhook I kept on a thread around my neck. Given to me by an Inuit handyman way back when I still received odd gifts from men, I only recently began wearing it. I was now at a point in my life where the frisson of a hook living between my breasts just seemed right. "There's an interesting story about this cove."

I jumped in my skin. The voice felt like it had crawled physically over my shoulder and into my ear. Ignoring gooseflesh, I turned and saw a man profoundly out of place, though I could not say just where his place might have actually been. His face was shaggy with more hair than most men have all over. He wore natural leathers from his neck to his steel shank boots. Despite a generous cut, they did nothing to hide his bulk. He cast a shadow off the lowering sun somehow larger than his body could make.

I squinted against the late afternoon blaze. "You startled me." I sounded like a girl in my own ears. I hated that, so I tried again in a lower voice. "You're pretty quiet."

"For a fat guy?" He showed a mouthful of teeth like standing stones: grayish, blocky, and cracked. I adjusted my estimate of his age upwards as he sat heavily beside me, uninvited. He stank; there was no nice way to put it. Still, it was more like sour, musky mud than alcohol-reek or unwashed breeches. Without waiting for a reply or even looking my way, he said, "You're a long way from home."

It was the most ominous thing a man has said to me in years, yet I heard no threat in it. "No, I live just over there," I said, pointing vaguely in the direction of Pacific Grove. "Have for a couple of years now."

"I was talking to the fetish you're tinkering with," he said to the bay. He reached under the loose neck of his leather shirt and tugged out something like a claw or large tooth. A braided lanyard fit through a drilled hole. "I used to live here. Don't no more."

Was he speaking "for" the pendant, I wondered? I tried to look for a ranger or docent without appearing to.

"So, back in the day," he said with a grin on his nearly hidden lips, "back when men hauled in the stupendous, fatty corpses of fresh-caught whales and boiled them under Mama Sky..." He coughed, then coughed again from deep in his chest. "You got anything to drink in that sack?" He nodded to the backpack sitting near my feet.

I was unzipping it before I realized what I was doing. "Um, just a Thermos of tea and a sandwich."

That got stark attention. "Really. Peanut butter and honey?" It was not a question.

I blinked. "Yes, in fact."

His huge brown eyes flicked up to my face, down to the pack and back up. His expression was so deadpan I bit back a laugh.

I said, "That's my lunch, mister. You were telling a story?" I sounded more cavalier than I felt.

He cocked his head in a funny way, reminding me of something from my childhood. After one more ironic cough he set one hand on his knee and drew a breath: "Like I said, they was boiling this blubber out here, making a wonderful stench that called to spirits of both life and death."

I was still looking for a ranger, but we were alone.

"One of these spirits was Bear," he continued. "And Bear, he didn't usually like coming 'round here, as it was territory claimed by Wolf through an old pact. But he sniffed his big sniffer, and he sniffed again. He thought 'what is that amazing smell?' And then he thought maybe he'd take a chance with Sister Wolf and clamber on down to the coast." He scratched the back of his neck. I saw a few fleas jump.

"So that's what he does," he says. He looked at me. "And you know what he finds?"

I shook my head.

"Men. And these men are pouring something thick and oily and rich into wooden barrels."

"Whale oil," I said.

He points his claw pendant to me, then looks out over the water. "And Bear, he thinks that is just the best thing men have ever come up with, ever. He thinks it's about time those two-leggers did something useful. So he calls his children – to heck with Sister Wolf, now! – to come and see what's on the fire."

"Bears?" I said. "Here?"

He nodded. "Grizzlies. By the armloads. All wanting to see what was cooking." He picked up a flat stone and flung it into the water. It flopped with a single splash, like a fish. "Of course, the men, they thought like you – bears? Here? But it didn't take more than two busted barrels and a bunch of happy, matted grizzlies to set them to action. They tried covering the oil with sail canvas, with sticks and branches, with iron nails, anything they could come up with. And the men were bright and desperate enough to frustrate old Bear's children. His kids came to him, yowling and growling and complaining about their misfortunes until Bear decided to see what he could do himself. So he goes to the camp, sniffs out the hidden barrels easy, tears up the cloth, scatters the sticks and tips over a big old barrel fat with oil. That's when the trap, a spare harpoon on wagon springs, shoots from the tree above and pins his paw right to the ground."

"Ouch," I said.

"Damn right, ouch. And Bear screams and swears and some men come by with their long whalecutting tools. Bear knows it is too bad for him if he can't escape, so he pulls and pulls until his paw tears right off. And as he is running from the camp he swears to Mama Sky that he's going to get his paw back, even if he has to take it from a man instead."

He grins again. This time, there is a threat in his liquid eyes. My spine freezes. It is only then I notice that one of his hands is pale, hairless, and totally unlike the rest of his hirsute body. His face seems to change in the reddening light. His teeth look stronger. The bear claw hanging from his neck glows with the sunset.

I try to swallow. "W-would you like that sandwich now?"

His expression widens. "Peanut butter...?"

"...and honey, yes!" I'm already handing it to him.

He hardly has the wrapper off before he stuffs half of it into his mouth. He tries to say something, but it's useless. In any case I'm already up, pack in hand.

"Thanks for the story!" I said, over my shoulder.

M. A. Fink lives in Elkhorn. Watch for the novel The Found Diary of Avery Alexander Myer *in 2013 from Tornado Skin Press.*

One of the extraordinary blessings of living near the Point Lobos State Natural Reserve is hearing the very vocal colony of California sea lions barking a promise of new life. The loudest of all sea lions to bark is that of a healthy male during the mating season. Therefore, in the symphony that only nature can orchestrate, these very distinct and musical songs are truly signaling that a healthy sea lion colony is in remembering these marine mammals were once critically endangered and faced possible extinction. It is sometimes hard to believe when you can now see a large healthy colony of sea lions, but we must understand why they now survive and reproduce. One reason is that we, fortunately, live in a time of expanding awareness about the importance of nature. We are currently witnessing a growing global respect for

Rescuing, Releasing, and Protecting MARINE MAMMALS by Mara Kerr

marine life goes on at Point Lobos. In a time that now reflects great concern over the environment, we are truly fortunate to have such a successful nature preserve, right where we live. This natural blessing does not occur by chance, but instead through deliberate action taken by those who care.

The importance of this now thriving California

our oceans. Many people have finally realized the oceans are the absolute source of life, truly a life support system for us all. We now know the precious ecosystems and critical marine life present in our oceans must be healthy if they are to be sustainable.

There are seven groups of sea lions globally, which include; Stellar, Australian, South



American, New Zealand, Galapagos, California, and the now extinct Japanese sea lion. It is always worth remembering that extinction means gone forever or permanent. The ancestors of these sea lions date back 23 million years. Like so many other species in our oceans, the huge decline in populations over the last 100 years is almost unimaginable given the overall length of time they have survived on our blue planet, Earth.

There are certainly natural predators a sea lion will face in its lifetime, with the formidable great white shark and the strategic killer whale being the two most common. These attacks are usually simply a way for nature to issue a harsh but needed system of checks and balance. The weakest sea lions are the easiest targets, and what can no longer survive on its own will become a needed meal for another species. Sadly, the human predator is the one that has the ability to diminish, or even extinguish, a marine mammal population in record time.

There are some humans who believe sea lions compete with them for fish in the ocean, and the intentional gunshots inflicted in response are almost always fatal. Man-made trash carelessly left in or by the ocean becomes a death sentence for countless marine mammals. A plastic sun visor can become attached to a sea lion's neck and as the animal grows, the plastic visor will ruthlessly cut through the skin; a cruel and agonizing death by suffocation will usually follow. The same thing occurs with an endless list of marine debris; mooring lines, fishing nets, fishing lines, plastic six-pack binders, swimming goggles, jump ropes, Frisbee rings, and more. Boat strikes also represent a very high danger to sea lions. Overfishing has resulted in a seriously diminished fish population, making it hard for newly weaned sea lion pups to compete for food. Unfortunately, there is bad news in every corner of our oceans, which tragically affects all innocent marine life. In order to overcome the problems we must focus on solutions and there are many people devoting their entire lives to restoring the health of our oceans.

Fortunately, because of countless ocean advocates, there is also good news to report. The California sea lion is one of the lucky ones and we should celebrate the reasons they now number a little over 200,000. After the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill, new awareness was born about the importance of healthy marine ecosystems. As a result of that awareness, we now have the National Marine Sanctuaries Program (NMSP), a division of the National Oceanic and



Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The United States Congress responded in 1972 with the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. Currently, there are 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument located northwest of Hawaii. The four National Marine Sanctuaries along the California Coast include The Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, The Gulf of the Farallones, and the incomparable Monterey Bay, which supports one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems. All have succeeded in reversing the tragic decline of ocean life and are helping restore many critical marine mammal populations.

There is another primary reason we are making continued progress supporting healthy marine mammal populations in California. The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC) in Sausalito, California is a marine mammal hospital that helps injured and sick animals in need along 600 miles of northern and central California coastlines. The highly acclaimed veterinarians at TMMC have been recognized and honored by President Obama. Along with superior medical treatment, they also provide critical scientific research and documentation. This relevant information is being used in collaboration with



NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service. They rescue marine mammals with the assistance of a volunteer force of over 1,000 people. TMMC's vision respects the imperative relationship that exists between our oceans, our animals, and us. The mission of TMMC reflects dedication to a healthy ocean, which includes the good health of the marine life living there. TMMC understands that by caring for these sick and injured marine mammals, they are essentially caring for all life.

Point Lobos is a favorite spot for TMMC's release of healthy sea lions, which they have successfully treated at the hospital. They have been releasing marine mammals at Point Lobos since 1996. Other marine mammals they successfully release at Point Lobos include Northern elephant seals and harbor seals.

TMMC has also released a few threatened species, including Northern fur seals and Guadalupe fur seals. Point Lobos provides several key elements for a successful release that include a destination that provides access to other marine mammals of

the same kind, which is a requirement set in place by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Another great benefit of releasing at Point Lobos is that access is restricted; from sunset to sunrise the Reserve belongs entirely to the animals. There is a good working relationship between the rangers at Point Lobos and TMMC, and together they identify the best locations depending on how many animals and what type are to be released.

The total number of marine mammals that have been released by TMMC at Point Lobos is 366. The number of those relocated from bad locations is 86. Out of the 366 released, 202 were California sea lions, 152 were Northern elephant seals, 5 were Pacific harbor seals, 5 were Northern fur seals and 2 were Guadalupe fur seals. Since 1975, TMMC has also rescued 115 marine mammals from Point Lobos. Some of these rescues were extra special because the animals were returned to the ocean at Point Lobos. The local volunteers who do rescue work at Point Lobos have especially enjoyed this unique connection and memorable experience with the wildlife they love and protect.

There is nothing quite like witnessing a TMMC release; anticipation fills the air. A tangible feeling of shared excitement exists between the animals and the people watching. As the rehabilitated animals are released from their little crates, you are able to witness divine intuition in action. Young sea lions, elephant seals, and harbor seals that may have never seen the ocean scoot their little bodies across rock and sand in order to reach the water. As the first wave splashes, they look somewhat bewildered. Undaunted they try again, until they successfully dive into the surf, swimming and rolling with joy in their beloved home. Sometimes there are other seals and sea lions eagerly waiting in the water for their return, and that is a magic moment you will never forget. And when you see a child open that crate and release the animal, several fulfilling thoughts enter your mind. Perhaps extraordinary stewardship of the environment exists, awareness that fuels conservation actually works, and that the blue planet we all love is going to be all right.



The Magic of Point L A Photographic

In September the Carmel Art Institute conducted the First International Juried Point Lobos Photography Contest. The judges were acclaimed photographers Doug Steakley, Robin Robinson, and Richard Cannon.

"...these artists...captured images that are breathtaking and unique to Point Lobos, at special and rare moments." Robin Robinson





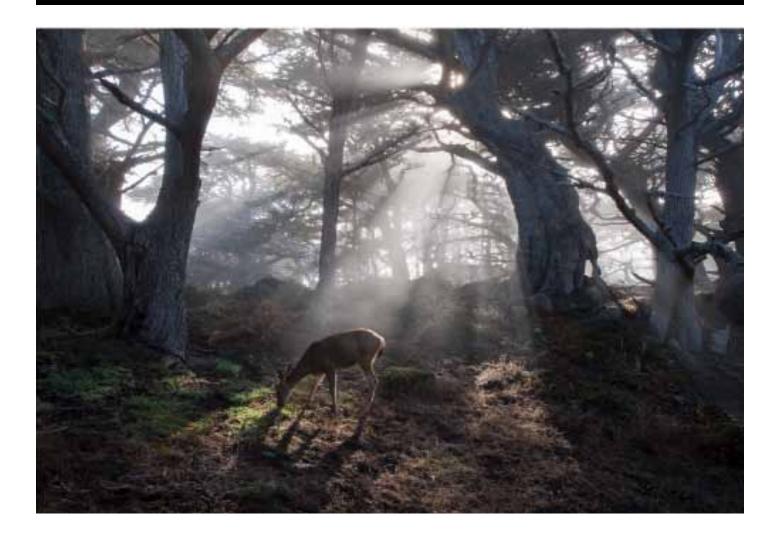


First Prize: Old Veteran by Steven Castro



Second Prize: Black Crowned Night Heron Family by Peter Berry

"We are very fortunate to live in a location that is so varied and photogenic, and the entries for the Point Lobos Exhibition confirm this feeling. . . It was a privilege and a challenging process to view the numerous excellent entries and select the most successful and compelling ones." Doug Steakley



Third Prize: Point Lobos Deer by Don Hoffman

"It was very rewarding . . . seeing the artistic expressions of some or our area's finest photographers. My own photography has been influenced by what I learned from viewing so many outstanding images by others." Richard Cannon

Congratulations also go to: Best of Category, Underwater: Randy Herz Best of Category, Landscape: Jim Messer Best in Category, Wildlife: Randy Herz Best of Category, Black and White: Douglas Barret Photographer's Choice: Steven Castro People's Choice: Susan Hillyard



Whalers Cabin Museum Reopens

The Whalers Cabin Museum located within Point Lobos State Natural Reserve has reopened to visitors. The museum closed following the Labor Day weekend to undergo its first major renovations in 25 years. The new barn shake roof stands out as the most noticeable portion of the new life given to this treasured building. California State Parks opened the museum in 1987 under the guidance of Kurt Loesch and the docent volunteers as the first opportunity to show the cultural history of the Point Lobos area. The building was originally constructed in 1851 by Chinese fishermen. Over the decades the cabin was used by Japanese whalers, the Kodani family abalone divers, and by World War II Army soldiers. The last resident was Chuck Bancroft, a State Parks Ranger who worked within Point Lobos for over 30 years. The building was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2007.

The renovation work was led by the Point Lobos Foundation, a State Parks cooperating association. This project is an example of how the local community can work with State Parks to help meet the state budget challenges and not let our local treasures deteriorate. Project leader Augie Louis encountered many challenges: acquiring handmade fire-treated barn shakes, consulting with experts for the protection of the bat population, and working with staff and volunteers to move and store the artifacts during construction and reinstallation.

While State Parks was deeply involved in guiding the project, no State Parks funds were used toward the renovations. The funds came from Point Lobos Foundation members and grants from the California State Parks Foundation and Monterey Peninsula Foundation. Sandy Hale, Point Lobos Foundation President, said that "with continued pressure on State Budgets, private and public partnership will likely be a key source of funds to maintain State Parks facilities over the coming years."

MEMORIALS, TRIBUTES, AND EVENTS

August 16th through November 15, 2012

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Memorial gifts provide a way for people to express their sympathy when words just don't seem adequate and play an important role in enhancing the programs at Point Lobos. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

- Jeff Schultz in honor of Tony Mariano and Susan Elwood's wedding
- DW Pepperdene in memory of Doreen Bannerman
- Karen Mignano in memory of Doreen Bannerman
- Mary Culver in memory of Doreen Bannerman
- Philip Smith in memory of Roberta Bender
- The Weil Family in memory of Gail Trainor
- William Booker in memory of Mary Whisler
- William Booker in memory of Allan Hudson
- Joanne McFann and family in memory of Allan Hudson
- Lester and Delia Booker in memory of Allan Hudson
- Albert Grosnick, DDS in memory of Allan Hudson
- Homer and Mary Elise Clevenger in memory of Allan Hudson
- Bob and Alice Nelson and Diane Henley in memory of Allan Hudson
- Anne Flynn in memory of Allan Hudson
- Ruth Louis in memory of Allan Hudson
- Barbara Rainer in memory of Mary Whisler
- Margot McCormick in memory of Mary Whisler
- Leslie and Laurie Chatham in memory of Dixie Frincke
- Ulabel, Debbie, and John Elder in memory of Dixie Frincke
- Jack and Terrill Sheldahl in memory of Dixie Frincke

GRANTS

- Monterey Peninsula Foundation: Whalers Cabin restoration
- Schulte Foundation: Junior Lifeguard Scholarships
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: Summer Adventures
- Anonymous: Invasive plant control

SISTER ANNA VOSS MEMORIAL FUND

The Sister Anna Voss Fund was created by Carl and Carol Voss, and Caroline and David Appling to honor Sister Anna Voss, the first Director of Docent Training at Point Lobos. Sister Anna developed many of the materials that are still in use today at Point Lobos. Use of donations made to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund, and the income generated by it, is restricted to the following purposes:

(a) Point Lobos Docent Group education and direct support.

(b) School education outreach programs relating to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

- AM Damas
- Joseph and Georgia Ann Stern

Moonlight Walk Members' Appreciation Event

Planning Committee:

- Pat Bova
- Carolyn Brown • Dave and Gretchen
- Evans Skip and Diane
- Flohr
- Kelli Foy
- Hope Hale
- Holly Louis
- Elissa Nelson • Bob and Sue
- Tasner Dan Turner
- Special thank you to Cindy Zoller Silver for her guidance in the creation of the silent auction.

Moonlight Walk

Sponsorships:

- Carl and Carol Voss
- Khakis Clothier
- Eriks Café Deli-The Barnyard
- Ventana Winery
- Scheid Winery
- CCM&E Destination Services

Silent Auction Donors:

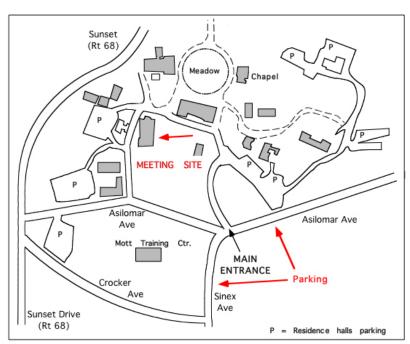
- Monterey Peninsula Foundation
 - Chuck Bancroft
 - Demetra Café
 - Nick Nelson
 - FiFi's Café
 - Harmony Body Kinetics
 - Il Fornaio
 - Lula's Chocolates
 - Chamber Music Monterey
 - Lesley Ann Spowart
- Sandy and Hope Hale
- Elissa Nelson
- Trader Joe's
- Trio Carmel
- The Pepe Family
- The Grill on Ocean Avenue
- Scheid Winery
- Passionfish Stone Creek
- Kitchen The Sunset
- Center
- Robert Tasner

any many others too numerous to list!

Point Lobos Foundation



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Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove

The Point Lobos Foundation Annual Members Meeting

> Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 Merrill Hall at Asilomar Conference Grounds, Pacific Grove, CA.

Social hour begins at 9 am; program starts at 9:30 am.

Our special speaker this year will be new Director of State Parks, General (ret) Anthony Jackson.