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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 California State Parks.



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## Message from the President

Augie Louis

reetings to all of our readers. The summer season is upon us now and Point Lobos is already seeing a big spike in the number of visitors. Memorial Day weekend brought the biggest traffic congestion I have personally seen. It's wonderful to see so many visitors wanting to come visit Point Lobos. However, the needs of these visitors are not being met when they must park far outside of the Reserve and walk along the shoulder of busy Highway 1 just to reach the entrance. We are looking forward to hearing State Parks' plans for alternatives to this problem. We should hear their views in late June or July this summer. I'll be sure to give everyone a report on what we learn.

Two summer visitors will be regulars. We are hosting graduate student interns this summer. This is a joint undertaking of Point Lobos Foundation, State Parks, and Cal State Monterey Bay. The interns will be working toward providing us with scientifically based information in two critical areas. One intern will focus on coastal bluff erosion, and the second will focus on shorebird and marine mammal populations. We hope to continue this work past this summer season in order to build a strong baseline of information on the health of Point Lobos, and contribute to the management of this magnificent resource.

We were surprised this past March when our local newspaper ran a front page story entitled "Forbidden Love—China Cove Closed for the Foreseeable Future—Possibly Forever." China Cove is a magical part of Point Lobos with its clear blue water, caves, and beach. I know that I have treasured the times I have climbed down the stairs to visit. The cove is so quiet and yet the vast Pacific Ocean is right at your toes. The stairs leading down to the beach have been eroded, and State Parks has not undertaken repairs. We have seen and supported seasonal closures in the past during harbor seal pupping season. The harbor seal mothers spook



easily when in close contact with people. We hope we can work with State Parks to engineer a more permanent set of stairs down to the China Cove and include within this project a permanent gate in order to close the beach during pupping season. I hope we won't lose this long treasured coastal access.

The Lace Lichen Trail project is almost complete. This is a wonderful example of our collaboration with State Parks toward improving the facilities within the Reserve. The Lace Lichen Trail has been part of the trail system for a very long time. However, it did not reach the entrance nor did it reach the coast. With the completion of this project, the trail will start at the entrance kiosk and go the full distance to the Sea Lion Point Parking area. The trail will be elevated above ground level just a bit, and will be surfaced with crushed decomposed granite rock. This should provide a safe surface for wheelchair use, and prevent damage from erosion and puddles of water. We are hopeful that this new trail will attract walkers away from the asphalt road. I'm excited by the completion of this trail project because it adds to safety, accessibility, environmental protection, and visitor enjoyment. To all our members, especially those who donated specifically to this project, I want to thank you.

I want to also acknowledge a very big loss we incurred with the sudden death of Judd Perry. Judd was a member of our Board of Directors, the Docent Administrator (the leader of our volunteer docents), and a past president of this foundation. He has been a mentor to me and guided my efforts in many ways. He was a giant in our community. We will miss him very much. I want to send my love and prayers to his wife Sharon and their two sons, and all the people who miss him. He was a great man.



Steve Dennis, second from left, with fellow 2015 KSBW Jefferson Award honorees. Photo courtesy KSBW.

## STEVE DENNIS - KSBW JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER

Congratulations to Steve Dennis for winning a Jefferson Award from KSBW. Steve has been a 6 year member of the Point Lobos Foundation Board of Directors. He was a leader in developing our strategic plans for the foundation and has been very active as a member of the General Plan and Budget and Finance committees. Steve's generous contributions of time, talent, and resources has helped move the Foundation toward greater growth and development. We are very proud of Steve. Please take a look at the YouTube video you can find here: http://bit.ly/1KssuYU

## MOBILE INTERPRETATIVE VEHICLE (MINT) GOES TO SACRAMENTO



The MINT with Judd Perry at far left. Photo by Anna Patterson.

We are very proud of our little electric vehicle now moving around Point Lobos. The docents are able to park at various locations throughout the Reserve and set up their displays of educational and interpretative materials. Marine mammal pelts, whale baleen, and skulls are just a few of the exhibit materials used to help visitors understand more about Point Lobos. We were invited by the California State Foundation to take the electric van to the State Capitol building in Sacramento as part of Parks Advocacy Day. It was set up just outside the Capitol Building. The enthusiasm for the exhibits and the creative thinking that brought this mobile interpretative vehicle into Point Lobos was fantastic.

## Observations

### by Sparky Starkweather, State Park Squirrel

This has been a fantastic spring season filled with wildflowers, butterflies, courting and nesting birds, harbor seals and their pups, migrating gray whales and calves. So much to see and oooh and ahhh about. And of course lots of pictures and wonderful experiences to photograph and share with everyone.

During a walk through the Cypress Grove mom and Bambi were feeding just off the trail on the north side. I've never seen so many spots on one little fawn. They casually browsed while people were taking pictures. The pair were not in the least bit bothered by all the attention they garnered.



Bluefish Cove, China Cove, Moss Cove, and Whalers Cove provided endless obser-

vations of harbor seals and the new pups. (Paul Reps was ever-present at Whalers Cove sharing his wealth of knowledge.) The mother harbor seal on the left is nicknamed Ginger because of the selenium in the water that collects in her hair follicles. That first year she wasn't a very good mom. But his year she was extremely bonded with her pup and took great care to ensure its survival.

Several new butterflies have been out and about here and at San Jose Creek Canyon. The Pacific orange tip is amazing with the pure white accented by the orange tips on the

fore wings. The ever-so-tiny green hairstreak flits around and blends in with the poison oak at Granite Point. And it must have been Navy Week because I saw both the Lorquin's Admiral and the Red Admiral.











How to keep up with the wonderful variety of wildflowers that have graced the meadows and brought such beautiful color to the trailsides? A new one for me was seeing the winter vetch in both its deep purple and pure white morphs growing next to each other. On our Members Walk up the Canyon we saw the best ever blooming of rare Hutchinson's larkspur, some canyon monkeyflower, and thimbleberry among many other species. And a first for me was the columbine.

















We had a PLF Members Event for top donors at Odello West. Fifty-one species of birds were recorded. Right next to the lunch area in the wild radish and hemlock were a pair of common yellow-throats bringing bugs back to the nest at the bottom of the bushy plants.

Bird Island was so busy with western gulls, Brandt's cormorants, blackcrowned night herons, and a very special treat—a peregine falcon breaking off branches from a pine tree to take to its nesting site.

There is so much more to see—just go see for yourself. Don't forget your camera, lots of time to do your own observations, and of course a good picnic lunch!

## A First at Sea Lion Point Beach ... Sea Lions! by Paul Reps

arly this past February during the start of Ithe king tides we witnessed a phenomenon that has never been documented before: sea lions climbing up onto Sea Lion Beach to take shelter from the tides. This what we thought at first, but over the next several days the number of sea lions grew from a few dozen to hundreds. And as we started to monitor this activity, State Parks closed the lower portion of the Sea Lion Point trail for visitor safety and for the well-being of the mammals on the beach and up on the trails. The population consisted of females and their young pups. We've always seen the males out on the far rocks in the Devil's Cauldron but never on the beach or trails. Visitors were asking us docents what was happen-

ing; returning visitors said that they had never witnessed this and we all felt helpless because we didn't have answers to their questions.

Over the next week we observed that many of the sea lions were emaciated and very lethargic, and we witnessed many of them perishing. Pregnant mothers could not bring their young fetuses

to term because they were in such a weakened state. So we did some research to help explain what was happening at the Reserve.

The experts at the Marine Mammal Center in Marin County and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) attribute it to rising temperatures in our ocean. These warmer waters affect the squid, sardines, and other marine life that make up the diet of sea lions. As these prey species move to cooler, deeper waters the mothers had

to swim out further to feed, resulting in less time nursing their young. Thus pups were (and are) feeding less, and losing weight at unprecedented rates. And because these young pups are so hungry, they strike out on their own looking for food before they are ready or capable of foraging for themselves.

Officials believed this crisis is being caused by the odd wind patterns that aren't cooling the ocean as usual. They don't know why or what's behind this, but it is affecting the entire food chain. And because sea lions are at the top of the food chain, they may be trying to tell us that there are other problems going on within the greater marine food system. This is the third year that these two organizations have been following this. Officials have said that this year's pups appear more under-nourished than they have observed over the past 40 years!

Some scientists are suggesting that climate change may be playing a role in this, because the warming ocean waters worldwide and the reduction of sea ice are amplifying this atmospheric abnormality. Just look at the east coast's terrible winter or the extreme drought here on the west coast. Other large-scale impacts humans place on the sea, such as overfishing, are not helping either. And regardless of why this change is happening, the effects are being felt

> acutely along the California coastline where starving sea lions are coming onshore.

It is questionable whether these mass strandings will have an effect on the population of California sea lions. These mammals have been doing very well since becoming a protected species in the 1970s—their numbers are in the 300,000s. Another factor at work might be

that the species is approaching its resource limit in the environment based upon what is being observed in the colonies. This is known as carrying capacity, defined as "the number of living things that can exist for long periods in a given area without damaging the environment."

It's not entirely clear what the cause of these sea lion behavioral changes are, but it is clear they provide more clues to the puzzle of what is happening locally in our ocean.

# Point Lobos and Beyond

by Rich Brimer

Artists, photographers, and poets alike have long found the fascinating allure, vast beauty, and geological diversity located along the shores of Point Lobos enticing stimuli for new creative works.

Dozens of artists—like Guy Rose, Edgar Payne, Armin Hanson, Charles Rollo Peters, and William Ritchell—were among those that came to the Monterey Peninsula to paint their most memorable works and immortalize the coast. Many chose to relocate here. Edward Weston took some of his most recognized photographs here. Located within the boundaries of this State Reserve, you can find the oldest Monterey cypress grove where eerie Monterey cypress and pines hug the coast with their wind-sculpted bony torsos. "Old Veteran," a cypress more than two centuries old, stands watch along a rugged cliffside cove, while sandy beaches with sweeping vistas inspire. Whalers Cove begins with a low cliffs that rise to the southeast, topped with Monterey pines. The gem of the Reserve is China Cove—especially on a sun-drenched morning. Jewel-like tones of aqua and emerald reflect the underwater white sands of the cove.

This great history inspired the California Art Club (CAC) to host an art exhibition of their member artists titled "Point Lobos and Beyond" presented at Carmel Visual Arts located at the Barnyard Shopping Center in Carmel, CA. Founded in 1909, the California Art Club is an educational nonprofit organization built on the foundation of promoting and supporting contemporary-traditional fine art. One of the oldest, largest, and most active art organizations in the country, the CAC is committed to keeping traditional art alive, and believes that their unique outreach programs will continue to attract new generations of artists and patrons alike.

The exhibit opens with a special *Collector's Circle Reception* for Point Lobos Foundation members on Friday, July 17, 2015, at 6pm. Patrons will have a unique opportunity to see this beautiful exhibit in person and support the artists while collecting original works of art. Ten percent of the proceeds will benefit the Point Lobos Foundation. There is a small selection of exhibit paintings highlighted in these pages; however, the entire show will be on display through August 22, 2015, at the Carmel Visual Arts gallery.



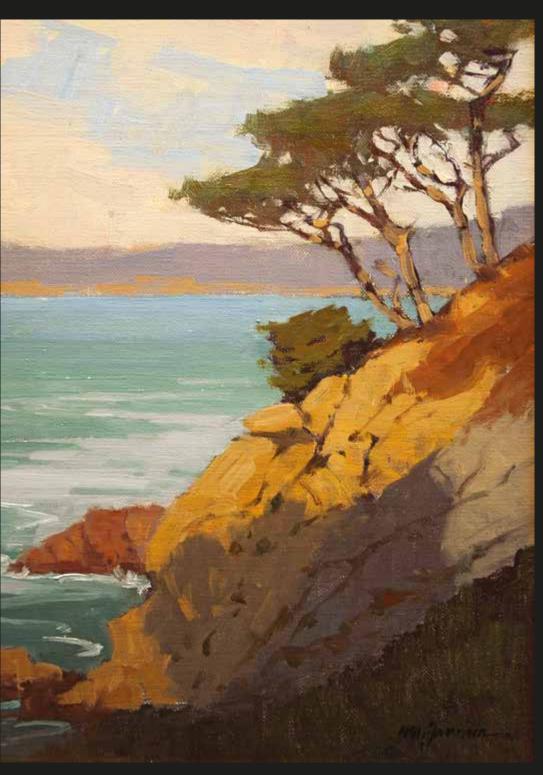




Paul Kratter *Entangled*Oil 12" x 12"



Sibyl Johnson South Plateau Trail Oil 12" x 16"



Mark Farina Point Lobos Pines Oil 12" x 9"



Nanette Biers Bright Morning, China Cove Oil 9" x 12"



Ann McMillan Point Lobos Water Oil 24" x 18"



Bobbie Belvel *The Old Veteran* Pastel 16" x 20"

Rich Brimer finds the dramatic beauty of the California coast an irresistible muse for his plein air paintings! Stalking the incredible light and beauty of the area and capturing it in pigment has become a ritual. As Chair of the Monterey County Chapter of the California Art Club, and Director of Carmel Visual Arts in Carmel, California, Rich brings a passion to the region as a working artist and community leader.



Rich Brimer painting at Old Veteran. *Photo by Jane Eleff.* 

## Notes from the Docent Log

### compiled by Ruthann Donahue

Worth a Thousand Words? Eileen Fukunaga 5/13/15

Brenda Wolber and I led a different kind of school walk on Tuesday afternoon. We shared the Reserve with five deaf high school students from Stockton and their American Sign Language interpreters. They had already had a very busy day before arriving at Point Lobos, having spent the morning at the aquarium, then biking on surreys along the Recreation Trail. The students in my group had been to Monterey before, but they had not seen the sights at Point Lobos. They were thrilled to see the seals and sea lions in the cove and later, the sea otters in Headland Cove. They also spotted a couple of deer, which was exciting for them. The adult signers efficiently interpreted for the students, and would ask us questions the students had. We were fortunate to have beautiful weather for their outing. This was their last stop before heading home, a part of a very memorable trip for them and another interpretation challenge for me.

## Mom to the Rescue...Thankfully Paul Reps 4/25/15

Yesterday, Docent Diane Slasor noticed a harbor seal pup born on the rocky beach at the Cannery Point's ocean facing side in Whalers Cove. The newborn was lodged in the rocks and couldn't get out. I spoke to a couple of divers to see if they could reach it to free it up from its predicament, but the tide was out too far and the walk to reach would be too treacherous to attempt. We decided to wait for the tide to come back and, hopefully, free him or her up. The tide did come in later that afternoon, but without the pup having the ability to nurse, and the pup being left in the sun all day, he or she was pretty weak. But a determined mom harbor seal was focused on the pup and she was able to get her babe out of its "jam" and into open water. Hopefully,

they found a quiet, sandy spot to catch up on a day's nursing and some much needed rest, as both appeared to be totally exhausted! Today I looked for the heroic mom and her pup and (happily) found them to be at Whalers Cove—safe and comfortable.



### Budding Geologist vs Docent Stan Dryden 3/13/15

My monthly walk today included a charming young woman (3rd or 4th grader) who blurted out "a rock!" as we approached the large granodiorite boulder in the Cypress Grove trail above Headland Cove. She was clearly impressed by this rock. I asked if she had studied geology at school and she replied that she had. Testing time! When asked the three major types of rock, she named all three, and also correctly identified the boulder as igneous and the nearby sedimentary rocks correctly as well. Then it was her turn. She asked me whether it was extrusive or intrusive. Apparently, she could tell by the dumb look on my face that I hadn't a clue what she was asking about. She kindly explained that this classification depends upon whether the rock solidified underground (intrusive) or after it came to the surface (extrusive). The best I could

offer was to send her on her way with a copy of the free rocks brochure (thanks again to Ed Clifton's expertise) and suggest to her parents that she might learn something she doesn't already know on the Point Lobos Foundation website.

### Point Lobos Adopts Two Sea Otter Pups Paul Reps 2/27/15

(Ed. Note: On February 27, twin sea otter pups were born in Whalers Cove. Female sea otters cannot successfully nurse two pups, so one is abandoned, except in this case!)

Visitors alerted us to the birth of twin otter pups today! Mom was straining to handle the two pups and we could see that she was overtaxed! A diver's boat was coming in after a dive and caused her to panic and she grabbed one pup, leaving the other on a rock where she had hauled out to care for one of her little newborns. The other was left to fend for himself and fell off the rock and into the crevasses. He was being beaten by the incoming high tide! I called Sea Otter Research and Conservation (SORAC) and they sent a team out for the rescue: a Zodiac inflatable boat, kayak, two SORAC members, and someone to document the rescue. The good news, the less-than-a-day-old male pup was saved. Many visitors cheered, cried tears of joy, one couple said it was their first time at the

Reserve and asked, "Is it always like this?" After a hearty laugh, I advised them to buy a lottery ticket, because this was a once-in-a-lifetime event! This was a stressful event for both pups. The abandoned pup, otter 696, is now receiving care at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Angela Hains, Public Relations Manager, sent us this update: "He is still in intensive care and will continue to be for a few weeks. Twins are born smaller than normal and considering he was approximately one day old, he didn't get a lot of mom's milk, which helps protect pups—he is a critical case." The current plan for pup 696 is to raise him behind the scenes in the aquarium's Sea Otter Program with eventual release to the wild. In a couple of months, he'll be paired with a surrogate mom who will teach him all the skills he needs to survive in the wild.

### Mom's Favorite Paul Reps 5/7/15

An update for otter 696b, as Docent Dave Evans has so aptly named the twin being raised by the mom at Point Lobos. Regularly, between 1:00 and 3:00pm, the otter mom brings her pup to its birthplace to show off. Right by the road in Whalers Cove, the show delights visitors and seasoned docents. She likes the kelp near the road, where she anchors,



sleeps, and then nurtures her little one. I often wonder what she would imagine if she knew her son, otter 696, was thriving at the aquarium with an adoptive mom. But then, I'm anthropomorphizing, aren't I? (Ed. Note: Otter 696 is being raised by adoptive mom Rosa,



and on track to be released into the wild.)

### **Congratulation Class 37 Paul Reps** 5/19/15

May these first steps to docent-hood be enriched by the excitement, enjoyment, and experiences you will have down the road. It only gets better as we all learn more with every visit to the Reserve.

The Docent Corp welcomes you as a great addition to the team; we can now learn something new from you!

### A Day for the Birds **Ruthann Donahue** 4/10/15

Starting my docent training in January, I was surprised that Bird Island just didn't have any birds, except the occasional gull. Avian behavior is not my strong suit, but I tried several visits....nothing. Then the weather warmed, wildflowers appeared on trails, and lo and behold, birds at Bird Island appeared. With many thanks to Jeff Johnson's scoping and Stan Dryden's patience and expertise, I now include the Bird Island spectacle of cormorants, black crowned night herons, and even the occasional oystercatcher courting

and nesting an enchanting rite of Point Lobos spring.

### Life in Spring **Chuck Bancroft** 4/2/15

Paul Reps and I ventured out to China Cove and beyond to observe harbor seals and birds. Paul set up his scope to aid visitors with the harbor seals and pups on China Cove Beach while I walked out to Pelican Point to find the Peregrine falcon. It was on top of the right "hill" on the Big Island. It sat and sat and sat for well over an hour while I patiently waited. In the meantime I watched a pair

of black-crowned night herons moving from one nesting spot at the top of the "crack" to a different spot on the island to the right. I don't think they could make up their minds which spot was better real estate. Meanwhile the male cormorants were busy bowing and posturing, or bringing in nesting material to their female. The white neck plumes were beautiful blowing in the wind.



### **Memorials and Tributes**

January 16 - April 15, 2015\*

### **MEMORIALS**

In memory of Lindsey D. Hanna Joanne McFann

In memory of Nancy Kocher Edward Kocher

In memory of George "Judd" Perry
Michael and Karen Bernstein
Fred and Carol Bloner
Joe and Pat Bova
Fred and Carolyn Brown
Philip Butler and Barbara Baldock
Lisa and Eric Cook
Greg and Nancy Crawford
William and Connie Dallmann
Stan and Gail Dryden
Tom and Eileen Fukunaga
Sharon and Jerry Hoffman
Werner Ju and Deborah Shoub-Ju

Wayne and Phyllis Kelley
David Melnick
Donald and Marie Murphy
Dave and Patty Parker
Greg Margossian
Alexanne Mills
Barbara Nowinski
Bob and Kathy Petty

Stella Rabaut and Donald Williamson

George "Judd" Perry (continued)
William and Margaret Rand
Paul and Michelle Reps
Sharon Russell
Kathy and Patrick Ryan
Pat and Jay Sinclair
Lawrence and Marie Swank
Cynthia L. Vernon
Carl and Carol Voss
Marsha M. Zelus

In memory of Janis Prange Heidi & Mike and Family Short

In memory of Claire Skall Deirdre Weil

In memory of Marilyn Smith
George Smith

In memory of Jean Tolley
Raymond Tolley

In memory of Chen Wei and Sungshen Mo
Deborah Andrews
Lola Backman
Matthew Barker

Chen Wei and Sungshen Mo (continued)

Shu gar Chan

Chinese American Association

of Rossmoor

Shirley Holland

Shing-Yi Huang

Szucheng Jen

Peter and Juliana Kan

Gloria and Richard Mo

Gregg and Laura Perloff

Julia D. Rienzo

Rhoda Regalado

H.E. Frank Wang

Charlotte Yu

In memory of Douglas W. Winans George H. Clemmer Sr.



#### **TRIBUTES**

In honor of John S. Brown's birthday Carol Brown

In honor of Thomas Hudson's birthday Christopher Jay Hudson

In honor of Docent Peggy Winston Carleton Mowell

In honor of Debra Young's birthday Robert Cutler

### SISTER ANNA VOSS MEMORIAL FUND

Use of donations made to the Sister Anna Voss Memorial Fund, and the income generated by it, is restricted to the education and direct support of the Point Lobos Docent Program and the school education outreach programs relating to Point Lobos State Natural Reserve.

Dean Hendryx

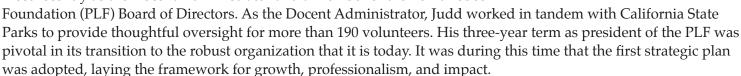
\*Gifts made in loving memory of Judd Perry were received between April 21 and May 29. We have included them here to coincide with his printed tribute. Many of those gifts were made to the Sister Anna Voss Fund.

### IN MEMORY OF GEORGE M. "JUDD" PERRY | 1938-2015

Point Lobos lost a dedicated leader, a generous steward, and a wonderful friend with the unexpected passing of George "Judd" Perry. Judd had visited Point Lobos many times before becoming a docent in 2005. He had been told by fellow docent, Ed Clifton, that it was a great place to volunteer and to enjoy its marvels. (Judd later confirmed this to be true.)

Judd and his wife of more than 50 years, Sharon, retired to Pacific Grove in 1999, moving from Walnut Creek. He was a graduate of Columbia University (A.B., History) and the School of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. Judd practiced law for more than 35 years, primarily in the business field. For the last 12 years of his practice, he was Vice President and General Council of Prodigy Services Company, a pioneer in online services and internet technologies.

Judd was an instrumental figure at Point Lobos for more than 10 years, acting most recently as the Docent Administrator and a member of the Point Lobos



During the same period, the PLF also facilitated the move of the Docent Center from a crowded residence to its current location near the entry of the Reserve. Few know or remember that Judd took personal responsibility for the renovations that turned a musty tool and storage garage (with a leaky concrete floor and a sagging attic) into the beautiful building that volunteers enjoy today.

In addition to the many jobs Judd took on for both organizations, he also provided legal counsel for innumerable projects over the years. Judd helped to create the Sister Anna Voss Fund to support docents and youth programs at Point Lobos, and remained a dedicated supporter of the fund throughout his life. Judd handled each of his roles with kindness and integrity, giving generously of his time and expertise.

What did Judd like best about Point Lobos? "I started with a love for the place itself, and that still remains. However, I have grown to love the people who make it all work; the State Parks staff, the visitors I meet from all over the country and the world, and mostly the docents themselves."

Judd also served on the Board of Directors of the Museum Foundation of Pacific Grove and as a guide at Monterey Bay Aquarium. His gentle spirit, intelligent contributions, and his wonderful laugh will be dearly missed.





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### Call for Entries!

The Point Lobos Foundation is hosting a fine art contest to reflect the unique and spectacular beauty and natural resources found at Point Lobos State Natural Reserve. With more than 550,000 visitors each year, Point Lobos inspires artists from all over the world. Ten pieces will be selected to create a fine art notecard set for sale at Point Lobos. Proceeds from the sale of these notecards will be used to to advance visitors' enjoyment and understanding of Point

Lobos, protect its natural environment for future generations, and strengthen the Monterey County network of coastal California State Parks. **This contest is open to all artists and all mediums.** Each artist may enter up to two digital images of original pieces inspired by Point Lobos for a total entry fee of \$30. A five-person jury will review all entries and ultimately choose ten pieces to be used in creating a fine art notecard set. The jury will consists of a Point Lobos Foundation staff representative, a Point Lobos Docent, a Point Lobos Foundation board member, a State Parks representative, and a local professional artist. More information, including submission details, online at pointlobos.org.

Important Dates...

Contest Opens for Entries: Monday, August 3, 2015 Contest Closes for Entries: Monday, August 31, 2015 Notifications: Friday, October 8, 2015