



THE NEWSLETTER OF COASTWALK  
Leading the way on the California Coastal Trail Spring 2006

## Big Changes at Coastwalk

Big changes are afoot at Coastwalk! Executive Director Richard Nichols has retired (see pgs 6-7), as has longtime Administrative Assistant Helen Shane. Director of Operations & Development Sasha Rose Schaible resigned to spend time with her new baby. The process of hiring a new Director has begun, and Julie Sicaud, Coastwalk's bookkeeper for years, has replaced Helen. In the interim, board president Linda Hanes has stepped up the steer the ship, and staff continues to innovate and implement fresh new ideas. In fact, "fresh" is a term that describes much of what is happening at Coastwalk right now. Read on to learn more...

### Summer Coastwalk Program

No matter what changes, Coastwalk remains committed

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## Incredible Prizes in the 2nd Annual Coastwalk Raffle!

Our 2005 raffle was such a smashing success that we're doing it again this year! Our Grand Prize is a 2007 Summer Coastwalk "Trip for Two." Other prizes include: overnight stays at coastal B&B's throughout California, gift certificates to fine restaurants, sea kayak, canoe, white water rafting adventures, whale watching expeditions, outdoor adventure gear & gadgets, and much more!

Raffle proceeds benefit the Coastwalk CoasTrek 4 Youth Leadership.

Tickets are \$5 each, or \$20 for a pack of five. To purchase or sell tickets, or if you know of a business that would like to donate to the cause, contact Willow at Coastwalk: (800) 550-6854 x.5 or wtaraja@coastwalk.org.

## Fall Campaign Goal Doubled!

By Emily DeFalla, Coastwalk Board Member

Coastwalk has some exciting news to report. We have met our Rocky Fund grant match! Let me explain:

Last fall we received a very generous grant from the Rocky Fund, in two parts. The first was an outright grant of \$15,000 to fund the work being done by our Events Coordinator. Then, IF we could raise \$15,000 in matching gifts, we would receive another \$15,000 from Rocky. This was our biggest individual fundraising effort to date, and it seemed like a big hill to climb. But what the heck, we're hikers! And just like on any Coastwalk, we started at the beginning, kept at it, and in the end reached our destination. We sent out our fall appeal letter, and retiring director Richard Nichols sent out a personal appeal, as did many of our Board members.

At the end of the journey, you gave over \$15,200 to fund

our new programs (see updates at left)! Combine that with almost \$14,000 donated by our board members and \$1,000 in corporate matching funds and other grants, and we raised over \$30,000 and doubled our match goal!

Just like on any

**Campaign** *continued on page 2*

## 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.

### STAFF:

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## Campaign *continued from page 1*

Coastwalk, we were successful because members, friends, and supporters pitched in. Everyone who helped us deserves a huge thank you! As you know, Coastwalk is going through a time of change, and a strong financial base means we can keep doing the work we need to do to make the CCT a reality.

With part of the Rockey Fund grant, we were able to boost our critical Events Coordinator position to full-time status - read about Willow Taraja's work coordinating our Adopt-a-Beach programs statewide and other projects at right. The matching funds are also helping us to launch CoasTrek 4 Youth 2006, partially funded by a Whale Tail grant from the California Coastal Commission. Through the spring, we'll expand our Adopt-a-Beach, day hike, and trail work projects with the help of these funds.

Of course, our work on the CCT and in support of preservation and access to the coast is far from complete. So, of course, our fundraising is not complete either! For those of you who recently donated, a million thanks. If you can do it again, please send a check. If you haven't invested in this critical work for a while, please consider joining or donating to Coastwalk - you can use the membership/donation form on the back of this newsletter - or online - [www.coastwalk.org](http://www.coastwalk.org).

Please join us on this walk into the future of Coastwalk. We need everyone who loves our coast to add his or her voice to ours.

## Changes *continued from page 1*

to the idea that once people experience the Trail, they want to see it completed. Our signature expression of this principle - the summer walks program - continues to thrive; we're offering 20 walks this summer, many old favorites, and some great new choices as well. For the first time, we are offering an all-women Coastwalk: the Sonoma Women's Walk, September 22nd - 25th. This will be a wonderful chance for women of all ages to meet and hike with other outdoor enthusiasts in one of the most beautiful places in California. We are also offering two new hikes in Humboldt County - one in the north and one in the south. Participants can do either segment, or the whole thing, for over a week of hiking on the unparalleled north coast! Our new August hike in Big Sur promises to show participants the best trails in this area famed for its rugged beauty. This hike is not to be missed!

### CoasTrek Youth Leadership Program

We are thrilled to announce CoasTrek 4 Youth 2006, an education and stewardship-based program funded in large part by a California Coastal Commission Whale Tail grant. Californians who purchase a Whale Tail license plate directly support this annual, highly competitive grant program.

Coastwalk will coordinate the efforts of 36 youth leaders from six Sonoma County organizations, who commit to steward the coast through CoasTrek's three-fold approach. Between May and October, 2006, participants will adopt a beach and participate in three clean-ups, then will go on the Trek itself - an adventurous 6-day Sonoma coastal wilderness, hiking and stewarding experience designed to build knowledge, and leadership and teamwork skills. Finally, they will recruit, mentor, and organize family, friends and volunteers for 2006 National Coastal Cleanup Day.

We are tremendously excited about this innovative Adopt-a-Beach approach, and hope that this program will serve as a model for others statewide! If you are interested in volunteering with any aspect of CoasTrek 4 Youth 2006, we need you!! Please contact Willow at Coastwalk, (707) 829-6689 ext.5. or (800) 550-6854.

### Statewide Adopt-a-Beach Programs

A cornerstone of the Coastwalk vision has always been to support the coast through our feet. These days, we are getting our hands involved too - through beach-cleanups and trail work projects (see *Report from the Trail* on pg. 4, which also discusses our expanded Day Hikes program statewide).

Our monthly beach clean-up and Adopt-a-Beach programs give people the chance to steward the CCT and preserve coastal habitat in their own communities. Coastwalk's volunteer coordinators schedule monthly clean-up events, open to all. We currently have coordinators in San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Cruz, Sonoma and Humboldt counties - and we would love YOU to sign on to coordinate a program in your community! You can read more about our fabulous volunteer coordinators, and find out about cleanups in your area, by visiting the coastwalk website.

Sonoma County Coastwalk will coordinate the county-wide National Coastal Clean-Up Day event on September 16th. We will help to coordinate over 400 community volunteers for the scheduled beach & creek clean-up activities. We encourage you to participate in a Coastal Clean-Up Day event in your own

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# Save these Dates!

Please email your event to Leila Rand at [lrاند@coastwalk.org](mailto:lrاند@coastwalk.org). **More info about all our events can be found on our website: [www.coastwalk.org](http://www.coastwalk.org)**

**Coastwalk San Diego Beach Cleanup, May 14** – 11 a.m. Beach clean-up at our adopted beaches, Marine St. Beach and Whispering Sands Beach in La Jolla. Call *Ellen Feeney* for directions (858) 722-2115.

**Upcoming Coastwalk San Luis Obispo Beach Cleanups:** April 22- Morro Bay, 1-2 pm; May 27- Cambria, 1-2 pm; June 24- Pismo, 12-1 pm; July 8- Avila, 12-1 pm. *Bethany Saylor, bethanysaylor@hotmail.com, for info*

**Upcoming Coastwalk Sonoma County Beach Cleanups:** Saturday, April 29, Sunday May 21, Saturday, June 24, Saturday, July 22, Sunday, Aug 27, Saturday, Sept 16 (National Coastal Clean-Up Day). *Contact Willow Taraja at Coastwalk for info – (707) 829-6689, wtaraja@coastwalk.org.*

## Los Angeles County Day Hikes:

**Saturday, April 23, 11:30 am:** Abalone Cove Shoreline Park tide pools - Rancho Palos Verdes. Co-sponsored with Los Serenos de Point Vicente. *More info: Sunshine, sunshinerpv@aol.com.*

**Sunday, April 28, 3:00 pm:** Ocean Trails and CCT bluffs thru Trump National Golf Course - Rancho Palos Verdes. Co-sponsored with Los Serenos de Point Vicente. *More info: Sunshine, sunshinerpv@aol.com.*

**Saturday, May 20, 10:30 am:** Zuma Canyon flower hike — Zuma Canyon/S.M. Mtns NRA. *Leader: Michael Charters. Info: 310-394-2799.*

**Sunday, May 21, 10:00 am:** Abalone Cove Shoreline Park tide pools - Rancho Palos Verdes. Co-sponsored with Los Serenos de Point Vicente. *More info: Sunshine, sunshinerpv@aol.com*

**Saturday, June 3, 9 am:** Santa Monica Canyon Urban Exploration/ Will Rogers State Beach. *Leader, info: Marshall Ratnoff - lataxman@att.net*

**Sunday, September 28, 3:00 pm :** Ocean Trails & CCT bluffs thru Trump National Golf Course - Rancho Palos Verdes. Co-sponsored with Los Serenos de Point Vicente. *More info: Sunshine, sunshinerpv@aol.com*

## Marin County Day Hikes:

**Saturday, April 29** - Tiburon Ridge - 9:30 am *Call Paul McKown with questions, or if the weather is in doubt: (415) 383-2774.*

**Sunday, May 7** - Coast & Ridge Loop, Pt. Reyes National Seashore *Leaders: Rob Helms & Beth Robinson. rhelms@coastwalk.org 707-829-6689.*

**Saturday, June 3** - Pt. Reyes National Seashore Loop. *Call Paul with questions: 415 383-2774.*

**Sunday, June 11- Coastal Trail Thru-hike, Point Reyes Natl. Seashore.** *Rob Helms & Beth Robinson. rhelms@coastwalk.org 707-829-6689.*

**Saturday, July 1** – Dipsea Trail, Part I *Willow: 707 829-6689.*

**Saturday, August 5** - Dipsea Trail, Part II *Willow: 707 829-6689.*

**Sunday, August 13** - Coast & Ridge Loop, Pt. Reyes National Seashore - 9 am. *Contact Rob Helms for more info 707 829-6689.*

**Sunday, Oct. 15-** Coast & Ridge Loop, Pt. Reyes Natl. Seashore *Rob Helms & Beth Robinson. rhelms@coastwalk.org 707-829-6689.*

## San Mateo County Day Hike:

Saturday, **August 19:** *Bay Nature Magazine* has invited Coastwalk to lead a hike through the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Check the Coastwalk website or *Bay Nature Magazine* for more details — all are welcome.

## Sonoma County Day Hikes:

**Saturday, May 27** - Kortum Trail & the Red Hill Lariat Loop with Dr. Rolfe Erickson, SSU Geology Dept. *Info: Jon Breyfogle 707 795-7713*

**Sunday, July 2-** Sonoma Lost Coast - Fort Ross to Russian Gulch. *Rob Helms & Beth Robinson. rhelms@coastwalk.org 707-829-6689.*

**Sunday, September 10** - Salt Point S.P. Loop Hike. *Rob Helms & Beth Robinson. rhelms@coastwalk.org 707-829-6689.*

# Tides & Trails

## **California Voters Support Beaches**

According to a recent Public Policy Institute of California survey, Californians, by a wide margin, support candidates who will protect the coastal environment. Some findings of the current survey:

- An overwhelming number of likely voters in California (87%) say candidates' positions on the environment and coast will be important in the 2006 gubernatorial elections.
- Latinos are more likely than whites (60% to 44%) to say the environmental policies of gubernatorial candidates are very important to them.
- Across political parties, support is high for reducing ocean and beach pollution, even if it means paying higher taxes (Democrats 80%, independents 73%, Republicans 68%).
- Partisan accord breaks down over offshore oil drilling: 80% of Democrats and 69% of independents oppose it, while 51% of Republicans favor it.
- Many Californians are very concerned about fish or other seafood for sale having contaminants such as mercury (64%) and being commercially over-fished (46%).

For the full survey report go to: [www.ppic.org/main/home.asp](http://www.ppic.org/main/home.asp)

## **San Clemente Coastal Trail**

What started as a "DeRail the Trail" effort eight years ago when the city of San Clemente wanted to build a concrete fenced trail with a seawall, has turned into a win for everyone. The deRail opposition turned the city around and everyone joined into the effort to fund and build a low impact pedestrian beach trail segment for 2 1/2 miles of shoreline. Expect completion later this year. Congratulations to both the activists and city leaders who made it happen.

## **Have You Checked our Website Lately?**

The best, most up-to-date, and comprehensive information on anything Coastwalk is doing can be found on our website - [www.coastwalk.org](http://www.coastwalk.org). Here you'll find detailed descriptions and registration materials for our Coastwalks, information on upcoming day hikes, beach clean-ups, trail workdays and other events, as well as alerts on coastal issues and volunteer opportunities.... check it often and bookmark it!

# News *from the* California Coastal Trail

Spring, 2006



## California Coastal Trail Emblem in the Works!

The California Coastal Trail was mandated by the Coastal Act of 1972. Only recently was a key element missing still from the Trail — the trail emblem — designed and approved. The Coastal Conservancy funded the effort by a winning design team, and Conservancy and Coastwalk staff members joined in on the three-month public process to design a marker for use on the entire 1,200-mile length of the Trail. After public and private meetings and input by Conservancy staffers and Coastwalk members, a design emerged and won approval by the governing board of the Coastal Conservancy.



The abstract spiral design makes a strong visual statement that Trail users will recognize and come to rely upon when following the route. Coastwalk congratulates the Conservancy and the design team for the California Coastal Trail's new logo!

## Victory at Lake Earl

The Pacific Shores subdivision sits behind the dunes and on the shores of the wild and scenic Lake Earl in Del Norte County. It exists only as a paper subdivision, and has a water district with no customers. This district filed a lawsuit, claiming that the Dept. of Fish and Game's EIR in favor of the lake's preservation is flawed, and that the lake should be drained (many of the "lots" are under water part of the year). The court found that the subdivision was moribund and unlikely to be developed, and that the claim had no merit. Congratulations to Friends of Del Norte, who defended the Fish and Game position. The judge cited both evidence filed by the Friends and the Amicus Brief filed by several environmental organizations including Coastwalk. Although several other lawsuits are pending, the court decision is a major victory for the lake environment, and a strong precedent for further court decisions.

- Richard Nichols

## Report from the Trail

By Rob Helms, Trail Steward for the Coastwalk CCT Project



For over 23 years Coastwalk has been the chief advocate for the California Coastal Trail. We've had a challenging yet exciting couple of decades, and now it's time for the next generation of Coastwalkers to come to the fore. Without the success of our summer walks program, Coastal Trail

Expeditions, and our cadre of behind-the-scenes CCT volunteers, we would not have the strength and reputation we do today. Richard Nichols, Tom McFarling, Bill Kortum, and hundreds of Coastwalk volunteers have turned the dream of a 1,200 mile trail along California's coastline into a reality.

To continue this legacy, it's crucial that we continue to have the kinds of ground-breaking successes we've had in the past. Whether via our unique coastal day hikes program, summer walks, beach cleanups or volunteer trail workdays, we're finding new ways to lead the way as stewards of the CCT.

The California Coastal Trail is 63% completed, which means we have over 750 miles of opportunity for Trail stewardship. To preserve and improve our precious parklands and open spaces, through which the Coastal Trail passes, Coastwalk is developing a volunteer-organized and -managed CCT stewardship program. We are organizing Trail workdays in the northern, central, and southern coastal regions. We've had success with this program in Sonoma, Marin, Mendocino, and San Mateo, and are currently researching other counties in which to broaden our statewide effort

We are also working with other non-profits to prioritize potential CCT projects. We have developed, in collaboration with the Mendocino Land Trust, a project on the central Mendocino coast near Navarro Point, to build a new one-mile section of the CCT. Once finished, this new section will provide CCT hikers the opportunity to walk on the bluffs rather than on Highway 1, the route defined in our hiking guide *Hiking the California Coastal Trail*.

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## Pebble Beach Golf Course... Another Blow to the Coast

By Owen Bailey, Sierra Club

In March, 2006 the California Coastal Commission met in Monterey to learn more about the Pebble Beach Company's plan to cut down 17,000 threatened Monterey pine trees for yet another golf course, driving range and equestrian center in Pebble Beach. The 13-hour hearing was attended by hundreds of local residents and concerned Californians from throughout the state, raising concerns about the massive development proposal which could affect not just the Monterey area, but California's entire undeveloped coastline.

More than just the number of trees or the size of the development in Pebble Beach – where beach access is prohibited without an \$8.75 fee – at issue here is a key coastal protection concept at the heart of California's landmark coastal protection law, the Coastal Act. The Pebble Beach Company and its high-profile owners want to develop an area identified by Coastal Commission staff as Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA). A designation of ESHA should prohibit development of any kind. The project would also require development on wetlands and land that had been previously set aside for "permanent" protection through conservation easements. If allowed by the Commission, the precedent set could have dire consequences for future conservation in other coastal communities.

The hearing ended without a vote by the Commission, but final decisions are anticipated at the Coastal Commission hearing in Santa Rosa in June, 2006. For more information about the issue visit: <http://www.sierraclub.org/ca/coasts/hotbox/pebble.asp> or [www.savepebblebeach.com](http://www.savepebblebeach.com).

The American Hiking Society has granted Coastwalk \$4,500 to purchase tools and materials to complete this project, part of a larger multi-phase effort with the Mendocino Land Trust and the California Coastal Conservancy.

We support the efforts of organizations like Trailworkers.com in Santa Cruz, who steward Wilder Ranch State Park; Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods in Sonoma County; and the Montecito Trails Foundation in Santa Barbara. We plan to partner with these organizations this spring to strengthen their volunteer efforts on the CCT. We are also working with the company Camelbak to create trail projects in Sonoma County.

We are excited about the huge potential presented by the Trail Insignia signing effort. Once the insignia color has been finalized and the signs actually created (projected for the fall), we will be organizing groups of volunteers to place the signs along their local stretch of Trail. Look for more information on this project in future months.

Our very successful day hikes program is another area we are devoting lots of attention to these days. Our Los Angeles, Sonoma, Marin and San Diego programs are very strong, and we are training new hike leaders in Santa Barbara, San Mateo and San Luis Obispo counties. Check our website often – [www.coastwalk.org](http://www.coastwalk.org) – for schedules of upcoming day hikes in your area. If you are interested in leading hikes on the CCT, please contact me directly – [rhelms@coastwalk.org](mailto:rhelms@coastwalk.org), 1-800-550-6854 x.4.

With change come new beginnings. We believe the more opportunities for hiking and hands-on Trail stewardship we can offer to our members and the general public, the more people will become committed to completing the CCT. In the process, we'll be caring for and enjoying the Trail we love so dearly. What better way to look to the future?

### Changes *cont. from page 2*

community. For more information, visit [www.coastforyou.org](http://www.coastforyou.org).

Through our Adopt-a-Beach program, we have formed valuable connections with groups like the Surfrider Foundation and I Love A Clean San Diego, and look forward to partnering with them more.

### Statewide Outreach Efforts

Event Coordinator Willow Taraja and Trail Steward Rob Helms will be traveling along California's coast through the year, making connections with local organizations, recruiting new volunteers, and assessing conditions on the Trail.

In January, they went to Del Norte County, where they met with activists from the Tolowa Dunes Stewards and other local groups to discuss the irreparable damage to the Tolowa Dunes from illegal off-road vehicles. The CCT passes through these wildlife areas and along the beaches. Coastwalk offered strategies for promoting preservation of this area, and gave examples and ideas for non-harmful recreational uses. For more information on this issue, visit <http://actionnetwork.org>.

The pair also went to Humboldt County, where they welcomed new Trail Project coordinator, Jenna Haywood and Beach Clean-up Coordinator, Sasha Reinwald. We are looking forward to an active year with lots of projects in Humboldt County.

In March, Willow traveled to San Diego County. This visit emphasized outreach to community members and local environmental and hiking groups. She screened the great KQED-produced film, *Coastal Clash*, and hosted a meet & greet event.

Willow and Rob will continue to travel to various coastal counties throughout the year. If you would like to host a visit to your area, please contact them at the office – (800) 550-6854.



# Celebrating Richard Nichols



Richard & Brenda at Point Reyes, CA

*On December 31st, 2005, after 23 years of service to Coastwalk, Executive Director Richard Nichols retired to enjoy life and the trails with his wife Brenda, also a Coastwalk mainstay for years. On March 19th, 2006, the Coastwalk Board of Directors and staff threw a party in our home base of Sebastopol, Sonoma County, honoring Richard. We were graced with a break in the rain and beautiful weather, and dozens of Richard's friends and admirers came out to pay tribute to the man who has been synonymous with Coastwalk since its inception. Below is a message from Richard, along with the text of a tribute from Sarah Gurney, Coastwalk board member and mayor of Sebastopol. We've also included excerpts from the tribute speech from Bill Kortum, founder of Coastwalk, and from the three resolutions that were passed in honor of Richard's retirement.*

*Goodbye Richard - we can't thank you enough for all you've done. See you on the Trail!*

## From Richard....

Dear Coastwalk Friends,  
I want to personally thank you for being part of the wonderful experience called Coastwalk for these last 23 years. As we grow and change, as some of us old hands move on and make room for new staff, energy and ideas for Coastwalk, your support is especially appreciated and shows that over the years we have been doing the right kinds of programs and advocacy for coastal protection and for the Coastal Trail.

Although I am retiring as the Executive Director, I will still be around to help. I will be involved in an exciting new initiative to get the Coastal Trail signed with the recently approved insignia that Coastwalk helped develop with the Coastal Conservancy.

Finally, my wife Brenda and I have grown, prospered, and enjoyed working with all of you, in our common love of the coast and our desire to see it stay a healthy and vibrant place. Your energy and enthusiasm for the coast and for the Coastwalk family are more important to us than you can imagine. Brenda and I look forward to seeing you on the Coastal Trail in the coming years.

- Richard Nichols

*On January 23, 2005, Richard was awarded with the year's Excellent Environmental Consciousness Award by the Sebastopol Area Chamber of Commerce. Outgoing Chamber Board member Sarah Gurney, also a longtime Coastwalk Board member, presented Richard with the award. Below is the text of her speech in his honor.*

What an honor it is for me, as one of my last acts on the Chamber's Board of Directors, to introduce Richard Nichols, Executive Director of Coastwalk, as the recipient of the Excellent Environmental Consciousness Award.

Richard is the administrative heart and soul and memory of his organization, Coastwalk. He has worked tirelessly and unerringly for more than 20 years as an advocate for coastal protection and access. In both his professional and his personal life, Richard is one with the coast. He has informed, educated, inspired and transformed many people, up and down the state, who have become, in their own ways, advocates for the coast after hiking with Richard or another Coastwalk volunteer.

Richard's work started in a small way, in 1983, from the kernel of an idea of Bill Kortum, the founder of Sonoma County's environmental movement, now one of our elders. The business started in a box on Richard's living room rug or on his dining room table, moved to a small shed in his front yard, then to a small office across from our public library, and recently into a grand space affectionately known as Headquarters at the intersection of Gravenstein North and Hurlbut. From a staff of one, himself, to now seven employees, Coastwalk has become the leading non-governmental non-profit organization working for the coast. It has grown into a statewide organization with local committees in each of the 15 coastal counties, putting on educational and recreational hikes and organizing the build-out of the 1,200-mile-long California Coastal Trail. Once the lead volunteer, Richard now manages a large budget and staff.

Richard is known statewide for his encyclopedic knowledge of the coast, its history, land use issues, trail locations, and beauty spots. He has built partnerships that others perceived as impossible. Who would have ever thought that the environmentalists of the 1970's would become good friends with State Parks? Richard has been featured in *Sunset Magazine* as an environmentalist. He has secured for our border-to-border trail the Presidential designation as California's Millennium Trail.

As often happens, a big star can get overlooked in his home town and home county, Sonoma, where he has worked to get trails built, to broker land deals, and to create a hiking corps of trail stewards. Tonight's award is to draw your attention, recognition, and appreciation to Richard Nichols for his lifelong environmental consciousness and dedicated work. Congratulations, Richard, and thank you from all of us.

# From the "Father of Sonoma County Environmentalism" ...

Excerpts from Bill Kortum's tribute on March 19, 2006:

What started in 1983 as "bring your own food and tent and we will walk the Sonoma Coast for one week" has evolved into the Coastwalk of today. And we gather here to honor a person largely responsible for that evolution.

The original walk was to send a signal to the legislature that citizens had not forgotten their placing of Prop. 20 on the ballot to protect the coast. The California electorate did not want the Legislature tampering with the Coastal Commission. And Coastwalk has helped to expand on that message for 23 years. And today the legislature doesn't dare undermine the Coastal Commission. Today we can list the accomplishments of Coastwalk under the guidance of Richard to allow the public to use their coastline and reinforce their possessiveness...



Bill Kortum pays tribute

Think of Richard and we think of two people, the Nichols. Everyone should have an editor, a critic, a facilitator, and an encouraging partner and Brenda, you fulfill that vital role with Brenda enthusiasm....

His amazing attribute is to maintain the volunteer spirit that still undergirds Coastwalk. The rule of thumb is that volunteers only stick around for six months. How has this guy maintained the volunteer spirit for twenty years?...

We have all been subject to some variation of purist, heartfelt grumbling if we have ever traveled or walked with Richard along the coast. Grumbling soon gives way to inspiring talk of saving the coastal landscape. The encroachment of man's work anywhere on the coastline always infuriates Richard. And none more so than the sea wall armament of ocean bluffs rapidly taking over our coastal landscape. Richard's dedicated efforts at the legislative level to control the concrete menace run into classic legislative lobbying resistance, but the campaign must continue.

But Richard early on recognized that Coastwalk needs something to reach for, a brass ring, a goal. The triumph, of course, was the famous dinner when Richard and Brenda and Mike Reilly and Senator Chesbro sat down to devise the legislation that would authorize and make official the California Coastal Trail. Over time a number of proposals had been made to create a California Coastal Trail but nobody did anything to make it happen. But thanks to Coastwalk and Richard, an idea will become a reality...

The language of Prop. 20 describes the coastal zone. "A valuable natural resource belonging to all the people." Revolutionary language at its best. For 23 years Richard has dedicated his coastal passion for "all the people."



Coastwalk Board member Sarah Gurney



Emcee Mike Reilly, Sonoma County Supervisor

## Whereas... Three Proclamations in Honor of Richard Nichols

*Richard was honored with three proclamations: California Legislature Assembly Resolution #917, by the Honorables Patty Berg, Noreen Evans, Joe Nation, Wes Chesbro and Carole Migden; resolution of the Board of Supervisors, County of Sonoma; and the City of Sebastopol's declaration of March 22nd as "Richard Nichols Day." Below are excerpts from each:*

**Whereas**, As a result of his tireless hard work and unwavering commitment, Richard has had successful collaboration with the California Coastal Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, California State Parks, and regional, county, and city parks, and many non-governmental agencies to further Coastwalk's mission, 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...(from the Legislature's resolution)

**Whereas**, Richard's dedication over the years, and his advocacy for coastal protection and citizen's access have resulted in unparalleled trail by trail, pebble by pebble, step by step knowledge and appreciation of the 1200 miles of coastal California. Through his efforts, the California Coastal Trail was named a Millenium Trail by Hillary Rodham Clinton...(from the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors)

**Whereas**, Richard Nichols represents how one person can better our world so that each of us and generations of the public to come can experience our coastline and understand the need to protect it.. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Sarah Glade Gurney, Mayor of the City of Sebastopol, declare March 22, 2006, as Richard Nichols Day in the City of Sebastopol.



Richard and Brenda soak it all in...

# Thank you Helen!



It's likely that if you telephoned the Coastwalk office any time during the past 5 1/2 years, the cheery voice you first heard belonged to Helen Shane. If you communicated with her by email, you were probably exposed to her terse wit. Helen has just retired as the Office Administrator. We never knew exactly what title to give her, the first employee hired after Richard Nichols. She was his Executive Assistant, the database maven, editor, proofreader, letter writer, membership renewal reminder, order clerk and much more until Coastwalk had funds to hire more staff. She'll be using her enthusiasm and wit to prod local folks in the Sebastopol area to do good. She'll have time to paint, and attend theater productions with her ever-loving partner, Fred Fletcher. She'll continue her association with Coastwalk, of course, as a volunteer keeping her own hours. Thanks for everything, Helen!



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## Join Coastwalk and get a discount on our summer walks!

**Yes! I want to enjoy *and* preserve the coast!**

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

I'm already a member  I'm not joining at this time Here's my donation in the amount of : \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my check in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ for 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

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this form to: Coastwalk, 825 Gravenstein Hwy. North, #8, Sebastopol, CA 95472**

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