

RANCHO BODEGA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DID YOU KNOW?

“Blues Over Bodega”

The May 3, 1990 issue of The Bodega Bay Navigator cover story was: *Musicians Flocking to Bodega Bay* to pay tribute to Lu Watters. The story recounts how Lu Watters wrote & recorded a song with vocalist Barbara Dane entitled “Blues Over Bodega.”

Like many of us, Lu Watters (a talented, classic jazz trumpet man and songwriter) frequented Bodega Bay from San Francisco, as an avid amateur geologist and naturalist. His health eventually forced him from his strenuous life as a professional musician and he retired to Bodega Bay.

But *The Battle of Bodega Bay* pulled him out of retirement in the 1960's. In the first documented struggle against nuclear power, Lu Watters was instrumental in spreading the word through his extensive connections to the SF Jazz scene. KPFA in Berkeley picked up the story and the rest is history.

Contribute Articles for our Newsletter, contact us at:

**Rancho Bodega
Historical Society**

PO Box 1027
Bodega Bay CA 94923
www.RanchoBodega.org

Susan Teel, President
707-322-4113
teelsus@gmail.com



RBHS SPECIAL EVENT AT THE FIRE STATION

October 20, 2018, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Bodega Bay Fire Station, Burke Room, 510 Highway One, Bodega Bay, CA. “THE CALIFORNIA COLLECTION AT PETER THE GREAT MUSEUM IN ST. PETERSBURG RUSSIA” Learn about the finest and most remarkable, one-of-a-kind-in-the-world collection of Northern California Native Americans tools, utensils, adornments and basketry. The over 300 catalogued items were collected by Russian explorers in the 1800s and are now housed in a Russian museum. Robin Joy Wellman recently retired from Fort Ross, where she was a natural and cultural history interpreter for 27 years. Traveling several times with local tribal members to view the collection, most recently this past summer, she told us “the work we did in this international collaborative was very unique.” Join us to view photos from her journeys and to hear her stories about this fascinating adventure. There is no charge for this event, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Robin Rudderow

Rose Gaffney (1895 to 1974) An Original from Bodega Bay

A treasure trove was recently donated to RBHS by the family of Nancy Conzett, an RBHS member who passed away several years ago. For a time Nancy was editor of the local newspaper Bodega Bay residents enjoyed from 1987 to (c) 2007, *The Bodega Bay Navigator*. She was President of RBHS, worked on the Call House gardens at Fort Ross and managed the bookstore at the Tomales Regional History Center.

Nancy's extensive collection includes newspaper clippings, letters, photos and other documents about Rose Gaffney and PG&E's plan to build a nuclear power plant on Bodega Head. In the collection are details that have been lost in the many retellings.

So as our Archivist, I have selected items from Nancy's collection to share with you, our RBHS members. For example, the Balloons story featuring Lu Watters in this RBHS Fall 2018 newsletter, was lifted from Nancy's collection -- just one excerpt from the story of how our tiny town fought off the giant PG&E and halted construction of a nuclear power plant.

For nearly a century, land owners ranched Bodega Head. From the 1860s to the late 1950s three ranches were on Bodega Head. Kee Ranch, the northern-most parcel on the Head, was nearly 380 acres. In the middle was the Gaffney Ranch at 408 acres. The 160-acre Campbell Ranch was at the southern tip, jutting into the Pacific to the west, curving inland to form today's Campbell Cove.

In 1916 as a young woman, Rose found her home at the Gaffney's Bodega Head ranch as hired help to do housework. Eventually she married one of the Gaffney brothers. When he retired from ranching they moved nearby to Salmon Creek. But Rose loved the ranch and returned often to search the dunes for Indian artifacts and enjoy the beauty of Horseshoe Cove.

Enter PG&E backed by all levels of government, with 'fake news.' In the early 1960s PG&E filed a lawsuit to condemn nearly 65 acres of the Gaffney Ranch for the power plant. The battle was on. Even though PG&E offered more money than Rose thought the land was worth, she fought the notion of the nuclear power plant with wires strung across the channel to Doran Beach.

She made PG&E work to take her land.

Though 90% of the people of Bodega Bay were opposed to the power plant, a Rohnert Park businessman welcomed PG&E and labeled opponents "nitwits and crackpots." The Sonoma County Counsel formally opined that most residents sided with the Board of Supervisors and those who didn't were influenced by lying outsiders. *Hmmm. Name calling and accusations of fake news. Sound familiar?*



One article in Nancy's collection speculates something I often wondered. Despite plans since 1956 by the faculty of UC Berkeley to build a marine research facility on Bodega Head and quiet grumbling by the faculty when the nuclear power plant was proposed, the University did not formally oppose the PG&E power plant. The Atomic Energy Commission's Chairman, Glenn Seaborg had been the Chancellor at Berkeley. Over half of UC Berkeley's budget was from subsidies for atomic research. It seems likely that UC Berkeley administrators overruled protesting faculty members to keep the money coming for atomic research.

Formed in 1962, the *Northern California Association to Preserve Bodega Head* petitioned the State Public Utilities Commission to reconsider the permit previously issued for the power plant. Despite the PUC President's objections that building a power plant was a travesty on nature and that the safety of the power plant was questionable, the PUC voted 4 to 1 to refuse a re-hearing for PG&E's permit. However, the

FROM THE ARCHIVES by Robin Rudderow

Association 's newsletter told of the lost vote but also offered a glimmer of hope, a report by Dr. Pierre St. Amand, geologist and expert on earthquake hazards. His report determined "*the probability of actual fault displacement on or near the [nuclear power plant] site is high.*" He discovered a fault running right through the reactor pit. In the 1906 quake, areas nearby had moved as much as 15 feet. In his report, the geologist wrote that he couldn't imagine a worse spot for a reactor.

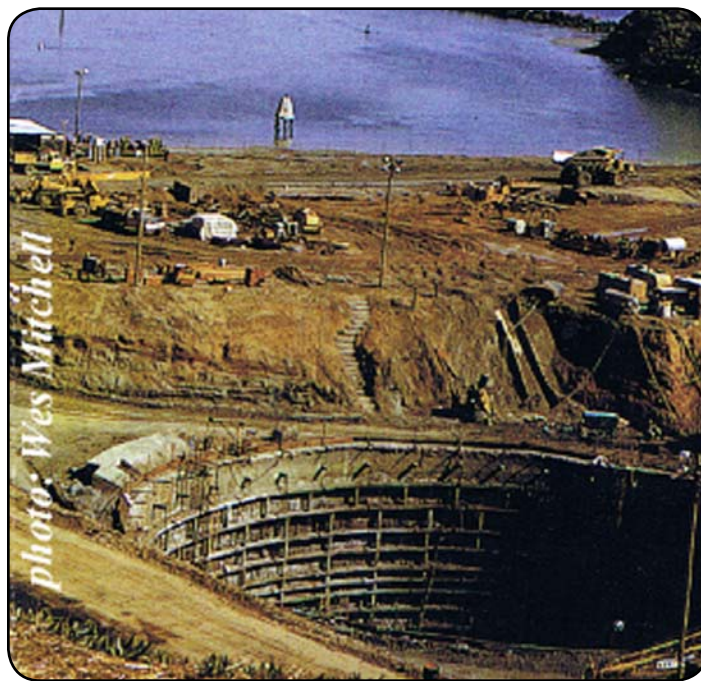
Pressure was mounting for PG&E. To defend its position in 1964 PG&E called a press conference to put forth its own earthquake experts. One stated "locations near active faults often provide better foundations for structures from the standpoint of earthquake hazards than locations farther away." Another said the plant couldn't be destroyed by an earthquake. But if it were hypothetically destroyed, it would shut down before "releasing deadly fallout on the Bodega area." These "faulty" opinions did little to bolster PG&E's position. But the "deadly fallout" took another form, boosting the locals to release balloons with notes inside that showed the fallout would easily reach Marin County.

The Tides Turn. By the end of 1964 the ruse was up. Dr. St. Amand's report reached the highest levels of the federal government. Highlighted by the catastrophic 1964 Alaska earthquake. The Atomic Energy Commission staff said they had a reasonable doubt about safety. With that PG&E withdrew its application for the power plant. But by then Rose had lost her lawsuit and was forced to sell 64.9 acres to PG&E for \$64,900. When PG&E gave up the idea of a power plant they offered to sell the land for four times what it paid Rose. She was mad! She tried to get the property returned to her without success. In February 1979 the land was purchased by the State of California for \$500,000.

The University of California and the State Parks sued to acquire the rest of Gaffney Ranch. The court directed UC to pay \$334,750 for 326.3 acres and State Parks to pay \$40,905 for 90.9 acres. Rose was satisfied and said she actually offered to settle for less than she was awarded. Rose said later that she had no objection to selling the ranch; her father-in-law had purchased it in 1863, her husband had been dead since 1941, and she was "land rich but pocket poor." "Moderately wealthy"

after the sale of Gaffney Ranch, Rose continued to live in her modest Salmon Creek home. She enjoyed visits from journalists and curious conservationists from around the country and the world. Even 10 years after *The Battle of Bodega* was over, a journalist called her the "*Mother of Ecology.*"

Rose parlayed her contacts from the PG&E days to look for a home for her impressive collection of Indian artifacts but was never successful. Her old friend August Sebastiani, who had tried to purchase Rose's collection while she was alive, purchased it from her heirs in 1980 after her death in 1974. The collection was displayed in a small museum at Sebastiani winery until 1987 when it was divided up. Some of the stone artifacts were purchased by Richard N. Carrow and some were distributed to an associate of the Sebastiani family. The rest of the collection, largely bone and shell artifacts, was received by anonymous individuals.



The legacy of PG&E leaves us with "The Hole in the Head" and the road to Bodega Head now known for hiking and stellar whale watching. Rose's memory lives on at Gaffney Point where the white pelicans flock and where Alfred Hitchcock created Mitch's (Rod Taylor) and his mother's (Jessica Tandy) ranch house, where the UC Davis Marine Lab dormitories, stand among a cluster of Cypress trees. ●

THE SMITH FAMILY OF BODEGA BAY

10,000 years ago	1579	1775	1809	1810
Coastal Miwoks, Pomo, Kashaya	English	Spanish	Russians	Mexican
<i>The end of the era of Columbian Mammoth that roamed our Coastal Prairie</i>	<i>Explorer Sir Francis Drake lands nearby</i>	<i>Lt. Bodega y Quadra discovers Bodega Bay for New Spain</i>	<i>Port Rumiantzev established in Bodega Bay</i>	<i>Mexico wins independence from Spain, creates Alta California</i>

RBHS Welcomes the Smith Family Back to Bodega Bay

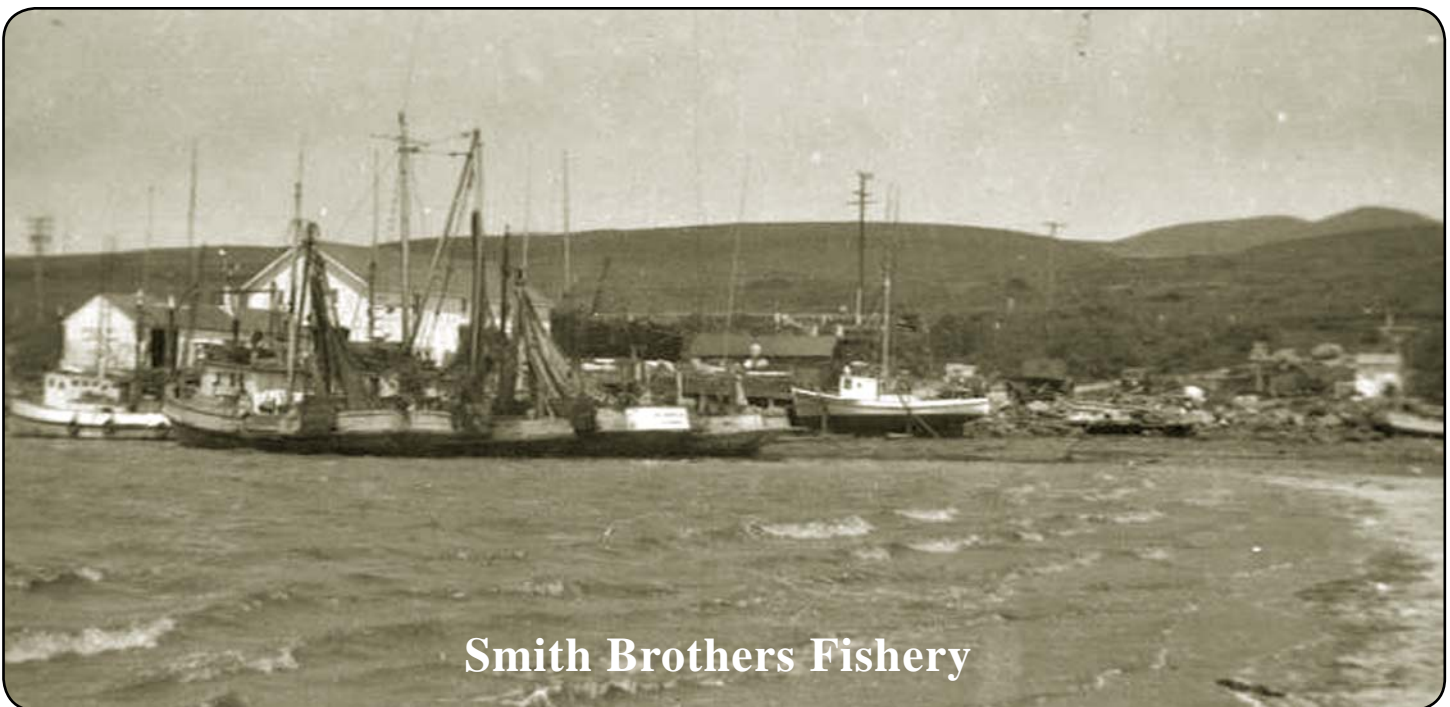
As one of the oldest families in America, the Smith Family legacy begins with the native Coastal Miwoks who inhabited this area some 12,000 years ago. Thought of as friendly, peaceful, well-established hunter-gatherers that left spear heads, acorn grinding holes, beautiful baskets, middens and other artifacts to tell us their story, Coastal Miwoks were first documented by English explorers in 1579 when Sir Francis Drake landed on our shores. Here in Rancho Bodega, it is thought that the Coastal Miwoks inhabited the area south of Salmon Creek. They shared the land north of Salmon Creek and south of the Russian River with the Kashaya Pomo who lived north of the Russian River.

Rancho Bodega Historical Society were privileged to hear from and honor their direct descendants this past June during the Smith Family Reunion.

The First Settlers in Rancho Bodega came by Sea. A well-traveled ship master for 30 years, Captain Stephen Smith was a Quaker and native of Dartmouth, Massachusetts who first visited the Sonoma Coast in 1839 and 1841 as a trader. He recognized the area as a source for lumber, food and leather for the small but growing city. Bodega Bay became Captain Smith's shipping port. His vessels shipped passengers and goods from his Port in Bodega to San Francisco.

The Smith's story continues today and members of the

In this part of Alta California the Mexicans encouraged



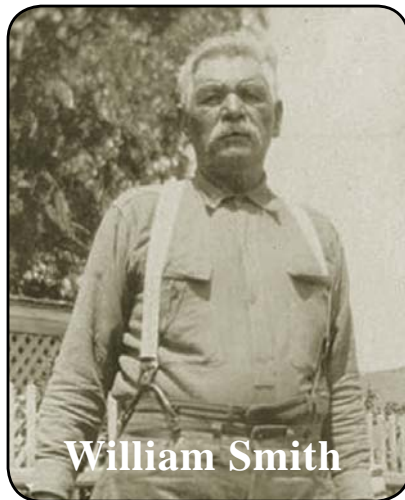
Smith Brothers Fishery

THE SMITH FAMILY OF BODEGA BAY

1839	1842	1844	1848	1849	1850	1876
Captain Stephen Smith	Russians	Captain Stephen Smith	Americans	GOLD !	California	William Smith 1843-1936
<i>Mexican Governor grants Captain Smith permission to bring sawmill to Alta CA</i>	<i>Russian American Company sells Fort Ross to John Sutter</i>	<i>Received Land Grant 'Rancho Bodega' & builds Porto Bodega to ship milled lumber</i>	<i>Mexico cedes Alta CA to United States</i>	<i>Gold discovered at Sutter's Mill in California</i>	<i>California becomes a state of the Union</i>	<i>William Smith marries Rosalie Charles creating line of descendants in Bodega Bay</i>

settlement by awarding land grants called “ranchos.” At age 57, Stephen Smith proposed to the Mexican Governor that he construct a saw mill, become a Catholic and marry into a prominent Spanish Family so that he could qualify and be awarded a land grant. He married 16-year-old Manuela Torres, the educated daughter of wealthy Peruvian aristocrats. In 1844 he was granted “Rancho Bodega” a land grant that stretched 55 square miles along the Pacific Coast from today’s southern border of Sonoma County at the Estero Americano, north to the Russian River.

The Matriarch of this branch of the Smith Family was Tsupu, a Coastal Miwok woman. In 1843 the year before receiving his land grant, Captain Stephen Smith and Tsupu had a son William (Bill) Smith. Bill, a Miwok, first married another Miwok, Walla Walla, who died young. In 1876, he married Rosalie Charles and they had 12 children. In the early 1900’s with the help of his large Bodega Miwok family, Bill Smith founded the commercial fishing industry in Bodega Bay. Bill Smith’s grandchildren came together to share their cousins’ stories.



THE SMITH FAMILY REUNION

The Smith Family Reunion hosted by RBHS on June 23, 2018 was a rousing success! The auspicious location was on Smith Brothers Road (yes, of the same family), where the Smith family lived and started the fishing industry out of Bodega Port, in the exact same building that the Bodega Harbour Yacht Club stands today. Susan Teel, RBHS President, and Robin Rudderow, RBHS Archivist, welcomed the Smith Family to Bodega Bay. The long-awaited event (originally scheduled for October 2017 and postponed due to the wildfires in Napa and Sonoma Counties on October 8, 2017) was enthusiastically received by 40 descendants of the Smith Family and 27 RBHS members. Sincere thanks to Kevin Kingsley, Manager of the Bodega Coast Inn & Suites, for his generosity by providing the meeting room.

A Special Edition of the RBHS Newsletter presented Smith Family stories, memorable photos and traced the genealogy from the 1840’s grantee of Captain Stephen Smith’s and Coast Miwok Tsupu’s son William Smith Sr., his wife Rosalie Charles and their 11 children (five sisters and six brothers) – Mary, Stephen Sr., Angelo, Sarah, Margaret, William Jr., Eli, Rosalie Ann, Edward, Aileen, and Young Eagle Smith. This helped William Sr. and Tsupu’s grandchildren trace their ties to the 11 aunts and uncles as they told stories and shared memories.

A wonderful video of old photos of the Smith Brothers in Bodega Bay, created by Marlene Smith, was shown.

THE SMITH FAMILY OF BODEGA BAY

Matthew Young Smith described the ongoing Smith Family Archival Initiative to preserve and share photos, artifacts, memories from the past and to revive and protect Coastal Miwok culture, traditions, and language. Robin Rudderow presented photos and excerpts about life at the Smith Brothers Wharf down the street on Smith Brother Road, to encourage family members to share stories and memories.

Tooch (Smith) Colombo started an hour-long story telling session that generated lots of participation from Smith descendants. Several of the Smith's personal stories reflected Sonoma County's and our Country's culture.

Language: Members of the Smith family, Sarah, Eileen Rose and Maggie were the last to speak the Miwok language. Russian words had been incorporated into the language, but it was rarely spoken because there was a bounty for catching Native Americans speaking their native language. Kathleen Smith explained that the law in California was that Indians must be on a reservation or in a Catholic Mission. If they were not gainfully employed, they would become property. There were disappearances from public school and an Indian Genocide book.

Today their language and music are being revived. At the Graton Rancheria, a Federated Tribal Office is working with Smith descendants to save the Miwok language and music. Language courses are taught locally at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Discrimination: Stories of prejudice against American Natives are becoming clearer. Tooch remembers his Uncle was fortunate to sit at the Tides Bar, albeit at the end of the bar. Even at Catholic School in Santa Rosa the cousins were outcasts. The white children wouldn't play with the Smith girls. Tooch and Kathleen remembered train travel to San Francisco from the Marconi Station. The family "wore their furs to show the whites!"

Names were changed to protect the innocent Native Americans. Tsupu, the known matriarch was also

known as Maria Checka. Tooch and the others explained that there was bounty on heads of Native Americans, peaceful or not. Being given an English name helped protect the family and allowed them to own land, particularly another half-brother Tom Smith.

They were fisherman and sold fish in Santa Rosa. They started in a small boat and grew the fleet to two larger boats. Uncle Angelo sold crab. Tooch told us they hauled in 75 boxes of salmon a day. Uncle Eli, who died in 1968, was considered to be the smart one. He didn't do the fishing, he sold the fish on West A and Fourth Streets in Santa Rosa. When we asked where the fish went, Tooch shrugged and guessed it was the quarry in Cheney Gulch among so many other things.

The day of the 1906 earthquake the ocean was dead calm, like a lake. Then the water started bubbling and up came the fish. A great catch! But when they went to San Francisco to the port, the family was waiting to escape. They sailed up the Sacramento River to Pittsburg where they still live today. There is a Miwok tale that William's half-brother Tom Smith was mad that day and did a dance – then the earthquake happened!

There were thunderstorms and snow! There is a book written about the thunder to sooth the Miwok children. *Thunderbear* is a book for children available at the Graton Rancheria today.

Sarah Smith was a sweet midwife with a special touch who always found a kind word to say about even the most despicable characters. But the whites often didn't want the only midwife for miles. **Many in the family were talented artists.** Clarence and Angelo painted. Sarah painted several pictures of Bodega Bay. They embroidered too. They were happy – it breaks the cousin's hearts to know what they went through, but it never broke their spirit.

All in all, it was an important and meaningful event for everyone fortunate enough to spend that Saturday in beautiful Bodega Bay! ●

ROBIN RUDDEROW

Attorney at Law

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Bodega Bay 415-298-6925 cell
rrlaw@bodegamoons.net

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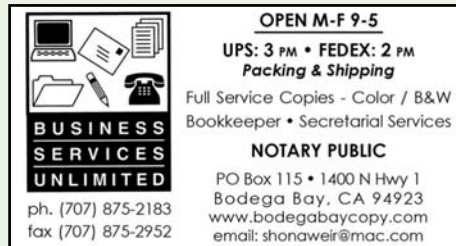


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Susan Teel
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Archivist

Robin Rudderow
rbhs@bodegamoons.net

Newsletter

Melinda Pahl
Melinda.Pahl@comcast.net

Webmaster

John Maestri
JohnMaestri@comcast.net

**Rancho Bodega Historical Society, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
PO Box 1027, Bodega Bay CA 94923**

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Rancho Bodega Historical Society
PO Box 1027
Bodega Bay CA 94923
www.RanchoBodega.org

IN THIS ISSUE

William Smith

William Smith (1843-1936) founded the fishing industry in Bodega Bay. He purchased bay land for his fishing business and his home.



Rose Gaffney

Rose (1895-1974) moved to the Gaffney's Bodega Head ranch in 1916 as hired help to do housework and married one of the Gaffney brothers.



FALL EVENTS

October 13th, Saturday, Fort Ross State Historic Park, 19005 Coast Highway One, Jenner, "HARVEST FESTIVAL." Join Fort Ross Conservancy, California State Parks, and the Fort Ross-Seaview Winegrowers Association at our annual Fort Ross-Seaview Wine and Harvest Festival for an incredible day of world-class Wine Tasting, delicious local foods & music, all set on the spectacular Sonoma Coast at Fort Ross State Historic Park.

October 20-21, Saturday & Sunday, 10:00am-3:00pm, Sturgeon's Mill Restoration Project, 2150 Green Hill Road, Sebastopol, "MILL DEMONSTRATION RUN." Sturgeon's mill is a 105 year old steam powered sawmill. We are a working museum that is open 4 weekends a year to the general public. On these weekends historians, gear heads, steam heads and students of California history come to "Step back into History" at our museum. They serve delicious hot lunches at very reasonable prices at their beautiful picnic grounds with seating for up to 200 people.

October 20, Saturday, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM, Stewards of the Coast & Redwoods Office, 17000 Armstrong Woods Rd, Guerneville, "DOCENT TOUR OF POND FARM POTTERY." Take a docent-led tour of Pond Farm Pottery and learn about the history of this significant cultural site on the National Register of Historic Places. Learn about the first woman master potter to graduate from the Bauhaus (German Art School). Pond Farm was Marguerite's home, school and studio for over 30 years. The tour begins at the Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods office/Volunteer Center which is located to the right beyond the picnic area in Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve. Reservations are required. Cost is \$20 per person or \$16 for members of Stewards. (707) 869-9177

For more local events, visit our website. www.RanchoBodega.org/events.html