

# BETWEEN *the* TIDES



F r i e n d s   o f   F i t z g e r a l d   M a r i n e   R e s e r v e  
Winter 2010-2011

## *Between the Tides Changes*

With this issue of *Between the Tides* Jenna Kinghorn turns over the editor's helm to Bill Kennedy. Jenna has been working for some months to redesign the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FFMR) web site, and she is now managing the site. This is a huge undertaking, and taking it on meant that Jenna would have to give up editing *Between the Tides*. Presented with the unhappy prospect that *Between the Tides* might have to close, Bill asked Jenna whether he might pick it up. Jenna said yes, and in its regular meeting in November the FFMR Board of Directors agreed to let him put his hand to it. The following narrative is reconstructed from conversations and notes exchanged between Jenna and Bill over the ensuing weeks.

Bill Kennedy: I have enjoyed reading *Between the Tides* in recent years. You have been editor for much of that time.

Jenna Kinghorn: It's been almost six years since I approached Bart Oxley, who was then the editor of *Between the Tides*, and asked if he wanted an article about the sunflower sea star (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*). He apparently liked my work, because on the next issue he was training me to take over as editor, and I've been doing that job ever since.

BK: That delightful little article was titled "Godzilla of the Tidepools," and it appeared in the Summer 2005 issue. Bart officially handed the newsletter over to you in the Autumn 2005 issue.

JK: With Bart's blessing and the support of the Board of Directors, I shifted the emphasis of the newsletter to a greater focus on natural history and conservation. We hired Martie Sautter of Sautter Graphics in Montara to update the layout and began using computer technology to publish and print. For the first few years I learned something new about publishing with each issue: coming up with ideas for articles; writing captions for photos; scanning in the wonderful sketches my fellow board member Kelly Huber provided for our regular "Creature Feature." I loved not only acquiring these new skills, but also researching articles about everything from beach clean-ups and Creature Features to oil spills and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs).

BK: Now it's time for a change ...

JK: If there's one thing you get used to as a volunteer at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve (FMR), it's that everything — the tides, the weather, the kelp coverage, the sand depth, the array of animals, the tasks, and the people doing them — changes.



*Bill Kennedy and Jenna Kinghorn joined tidepoolers on a great low tide day at the Reserve.*

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*continued on page 2*

## Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

P.O. Box 669  
Moss Beach, CA 94038  
Phone: 650.728.3584  
www.fitzgeraldreserve.org

### Board of Directors:

Robert Breen  
Joseph Centoni  
Linda Ciotti  
Tom Ciotti, *Vice President*  
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Ellen Gartside, *President*  
Kelly Huber, *Secretary*  
Bill Kennedy, *Newsletter Editor*  
Jenna Kinghorn, *Website Editor*  
Sarah Lenz  
Dr. Tom Niesen  
Hope Suchsland, *Treasurer*

### Our Mission:

To inspire the preservation of our unique intertidal environment through education and the support of research.

The graph displayed across the page bottoms shows tides for 3/14/2011 to 10/10/11. Where the date appears is midnight. The reefs are accessible for exploring during low tides—at least 0 or below. See: [www.fitzgeraldreserve.org/resources.html](http://www.fitzgeraldreserve.org/resources.html) and click on “high and low tides,” for a more detailed tide chart. *The late winter/spring low tides are in the early morning, so you have to rise and shine early!* The lowest tides this period are:

-.68	3/22	7:18 am
-1.43	4/19	6:11 am
-.74	5/6	7:22 am
-1.77	5/18	5:57 am
-1.12	6/3	6:25 am
-1.59	6/15	4:59 am
-1.13	7/2	6:06 am
-1.09	7/14	4:48 am
-.46	8/11	3:38 am
-.70	9/29	6:49 pm

## Change *continued from page 1*

Over the past couple of years the Board has been investigating increasing the online presence of FFMR with an updated and dynamic web site. In 2010 we took the plunge and hired a consultant to revamp our web site. As the process has unfolded, it's become clear that completing the conversion and then maintaining the new site will be a big volunteer job. My skills suit me for the position, and I'm ready for a new challenge, so I've decided to give up editing *Between the Tides* and take on managing our web site.

BK: It's been exciting for me over the last few months to see how you've developed the web site. At the same time, I do enjoy *Between the Tides*, and I was not happy at the thought of abandoning it.

JK: I dreaded the prospect of shutting down *Between the Tides* altogether. The web site can't fully replace the printed version; if you've spent time online, you know that it's hard to read longer articles such as our Creature Features and cover stories on a computer screen. I hated to think that such interesting and informative write-ups would be a thing of the past.

BK: Many readers take pleasure in having the printed newsletter in hand. But there are inherent limitations in the print medium.

JK: Yes. Particularly, some of the time-sensitive content of the print newsletter grows stale during the six weeks it can take to finalize, print, and mail it. (The newsletter you have in your hands went

to the printer almost a month before it arrived in your mailbox, and our content was frozen several weeks before that!)

Jenna:

*The web provides a wealth of resources related to education in ocean conservation and marine stewardship.*

*I want to use our web site to bring these tools to the attention of the educators and students we serve.*

BK: The web site can provide a much richer experience, and immediate access to other resources.

JK: The web provides a wealth of resources related to education in ocean conservation and marine stewardship. I want to use our web site to bring these tools to the attention of the educators and students we serve. The blog will let me provide links to articles, slideshows and videos on natural history. I'll be able to refer readers to some of the fascinating lectures and programs available on digital venues like Quest and YouTube.

I hope the FFMR web site will provide a platform for us to come together as a community, to share our experiences exploring and protecting FMR, and to continue learning.

BK: It seems as if perhaps *Between the Tides* will assume a comparatively minor role for FFMR as time goes on. I have ➤

seen considerable enthusiasm for continuing it, though, and not only from those who like at least sometimes to read hard copy. I think the print newsletter may be a better forum for longer features, for example, and we'll continue to take volunteer profiles to print rather than online.

I'd like to continue the emphasis that you established on natural history and conservation.

Everything does change, as you say; and events happen on vastly different time scales—some so brief (ephemeral, even) that we may miss the change even when we are paying attention, and others so extended that we know of the change only by careful study of records. Repeated visits to FMR can reveal changes in an intermediate range of time scales, and I'd like to have some articles that encourage visitors to experience changes this way.

And what we see at any time may depend upon how closely and carefully we look. We can see many interesting things at FMR by looking downward while strolling around the tide pools, without even bend-

ing over, and we can see other things by glancing off into the distance (with or without optics). Still other things we can see best by gazing intently, and we see

many things best when we're on hands and knees with our eyes close to the surface. I'd like some articles to show visitors ways to observe closely and slowly.

With some adjustment of content in the print newsletter the FFMR website and *Between the Tides* may complement each other, and we hope to have readers both online and in print.

JK: You and I both believe that the newsletter and web site can complement each other with related content, and we'll be ➤



*Bill, seeing things best on hands and knees!*

Bill:

*We can see many interesting things at FMR by looking downward...we can see other things by glancing off into the distance...and we see many things best when we're on hands and knees with our eyes close to the surface.*

Jenna:

*Our new web site includes a blog which can be updated quickly to catch many of these little stories — and with color photos!...I'll be able to tell readers about upcoming events in a more timely fashion.*

Bill:

*The web site can provide a much richer experience, and immediate access to a wealth of resources.*



FRIENDS OF FITZGERALD MARINE RESERVE

FFMR Visit FMR Events Blog Resources Join Us Contacts

**Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**

The Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve group is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization of volunteers who provide tours of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve's tide pools and other educational experiences related to the intertidal environment. Read more about our mission and history.



Fitzgerald Marine Reserve is a San Mateo County Park located in Moss Beach, CA, about 40 minutes south of San Francisco. Recently designated a Marine Protected Area, the rocky shore of the reserve becomes an outdoor classroom at low tide, allowing explorers of all ages to marvel at the diversity of marine life and learn more about protecting the ocean and its inhabitants. On any given day visitors may see sea urchins, sea stars, harbor seals, various mollusks, and even the elusive red octopus. Learn more about visiting Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

**Be A Volunteer**



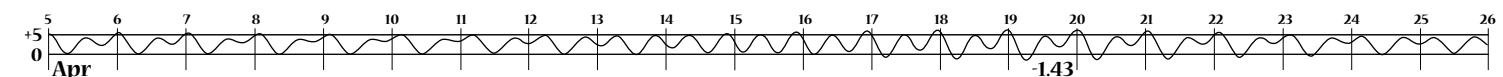
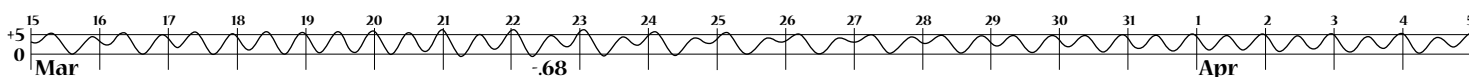
**Tides**



**Blog Categories**

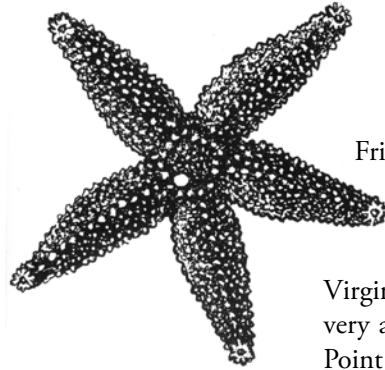
- conservation
- events
- guidelines
- memorable moments
- science
- sea life
- Uncategorized
- worth 1000 words

**Check out our updated website at [www.fitzgeraldreserve.org](http://www.fitzgeraldreserve.org)**



## 2010 Volunteer Naturalists Awards

by Sarah Lenz



### The "Ginny Award"

Virginia Welsh helped to create the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and served as its first President. Bob Breen trained her along with a few others in the early 1970s to give tours to school groups. Virginia, affectionately known as "Ginny," was very active with the Girl Scouts and the Coyote Point Park Museum. In 1985 FFMR (then called "Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Life Refuge") was officially established. Ginny loved working as a docent at the reserve for more than 20 years, and she served on the FFMR board until her death. She was a little bundle of energy, and grace, and was always generous. She always had kind words for new and nervous docents. As a board member she attended many county meetings and edited *The Natural History of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve*. Ginny loved the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and helped form it into the educational and special place it is today. Her legacy is passed on to new volunteer naturalists in the form of her award.

*Many thanks, Carol and Mike, for all you do to make FMR such a special place!*

The Virginia Welsh Memorial Award, or "Ginny Award," was established in 2004 by FFMR to celebrate her spirit. We present it each year to one of our volunteers who generously displays dedication to FMR. This year's awardee is Mike Davis, a naturalist docent with FFMR. Mike has donated over 50 hours in 2010 leading tours for school groups into the intertidal. He also participated in the Marine Life Protection Act process to champion FMR becoming part of a new marine protected area.

### The Sea Star Award

The Sea Star Award is presented each year to a volunteer from the most recent training class who has shown exceptional dedication to FMR, and this year Carol Davies was chosen. Carol has generously given over 125 hours to the reserve, taking many school children out to the tidepools and staffing the visitor center. She has also been known to show up with treats for fellow volunteers and FMR Park staff. ♦

## Winter at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve

by Bill Kennedy

### Storm Season

The rainy season on our coast runs generally from November through March; on **average**, we receive nearly 80% of our annual rainfall in these months. The winter rains **typically** fall heavily during sometimes dramatic storms, punctuated by brilliantly clear periods (sometimes hours, sometimes days) of quiet weather.

There is, however, **nothing average or typical** in our experience of the weather in any particular year on our coast. In some years heavy rains fall earlier or later than this, and at times the rainfall may be steady and unrelenting rather than sudden and episodic. The "average" weather pattern establishes an interesting frame of reference, but it provides nothing by way of what we may expect to experience in any particular year.

Throughout January and the first weeks of February this winter we saw practically no rain, and we might have thought it had been a dry year. But heavy storms in December and the last weeks of February brought our cumulative winter rainfall nearly up to the average for the period November 1 through March 1. We'll see whether March delivers this year.

### Time, Moon and Tides

Generally for tidepoolers a "good" low tide is a "minus" tide — that is, one in which the water falls below the mean lower low water level (MLLW). During "really good" low tides the water falls to nearly 1 foot below MLLW (-1.0) or lower. On the few days when really good low tides occur, the receding water reveals plants and animals — and their habitats — that cannot readily be seen at other times.

During the winter months along our coast the better low tides occur around sunset. (The better low tides in spring and summer occur near sunrise.)

This winter "really good" tides (-1.0 and lower) occurred around the new moon in

October, and around both the new and the full moon in November, December, and January.

Winter afternoon low tides bring masses of visitors to the reef at FMR, both during the week and on weekends. This owes partly to convenience: some schools and other organizations find it easier to schedule group field trips (organized tours) for an afternoon, and it may be easier for casual visitors or for visitors from the other side of the hill to catch an afternoon or evening low tide than to arrive at the reef near dawn.

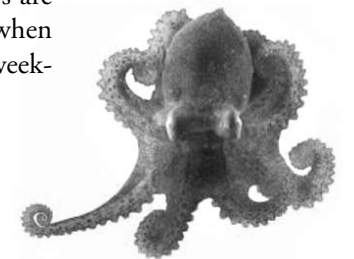
In any event, on any day during an afternoon low tide in the winter months, particularly when the weather is mild, there may be many hundreds of visitors on the reef — and our volunteers are pressed into service, both during the week when organized tours are scheduled and on busy weekends.

### Night tidepooling

A spectacular total lunar eclipse was seen by observers on our coast who patiently waited around midnight on the Northern Winter Solstice (12 a.m. December 21) for clear openings in the cloud cover. Good afternoon/evening low tides prevailed throughout that week, and visitors for the annual FFMR night tidepooling excursion on the evening of December 22 (-1.2 tide) braved somewhat blustery weather to explore the reef under cover of darkness. Short videos of encounters with red octopus (*Octopus refescens*) are posted on the FFMR website; go to fitzgeraldreserve.org and click on memorable moments under "Blog Categories."

### Wind and Waves

Most waves are driven by winds, with or without accompanying rain; and sea conditions at any time ➤



red octopus



High water in San Vicente Creek is eroding the foundations of the footbridge.

### Change continued from page 3

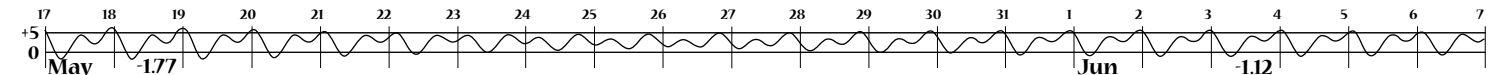
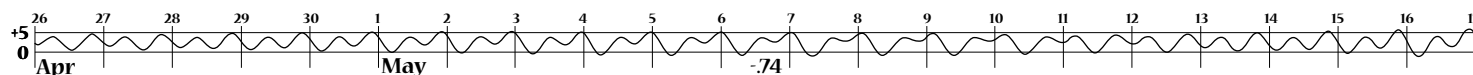
working together over the coming months to coordinate our efforts. We foresee continuing to publish longer articles in *Between the Tides*, but shifting the more time-sensitive items — news about conservation initiatives, for example, and announcements of upcoming events — to the web site. We'll continue to archive the newsletter on the web site on a page called Resources.

BK: As a new member of the board (profiled in the September 2010 issue of *Between the Tides*), I have a lot to learn about how things work. And I must say steering the newsletter alongside the web site seems daunting. I was definitely playing catch-up on this issue.

I expect to publish quarterly — with issues arriving in March, June, August and December between the middle and the end of the month. I am fortunate to have in place your time-tested systems for running *Between the Tides*. And I look forward to working with contributors to build the content of the newsletter.

JK: And readers can still expect to see my byline in *Between the Tides* periodically — I'm already researching a Creature Feature on one of my favorite critters, the sea otter (*Enhydra lutris*), for some time in 2011!

BK: Sooner than you may wish; I've scheduled the sea otter article for the March 2011 issue, and the submission deadline is the end of January. ♦





Winter storms bring plant debris ashore, leaving it on the beach at low tide

**Winter at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve** *continued from page 5*

at FMR vary widely. Tidepooling during a moderately low tide when seas are smaller can sometimes be more rewarding than during an excellent low tide when waves are running high. Heavy rains bring a rush of fresh water down San Vicente Creek and onto the beach and reefs, and saturation of the soil can promote erosion of the cliffs, particularly when big waves at high tide undercut the base of the cliff face.

Very low tides are preceded by very high tides; a tide at +6.0 or higher in mid-to late morning typically precedes a good low tide in mid-to-late afternoon. When such very high tides are accompanied by heavy seas, seawalls can be breached and low-lying areas may be flooded. As global sea levels rise, the tidal range will rise as well. "King" tides were observed in the Bay area on January 19th and 20th, and on February 16th–18th, providing a preview of what we might experience more regularly in the future as a result of rising sea levels.

**Special Effects**

Whatever the weather, for this writer the intertidal zone is always delightful and sometimes surprising, and it is tempting just to walk quickly toward the reef at low tide. The winter season offers some particular rewards for visitors who give the Reserve wider attention — away from the tidepools and surge channels, toward the land behind the shore and into the sky overhead. Here are a few treats.

**Harbor seals** (*Phoca vitulina*) haul out in large groups at the reserve throughout theyear. We give them a wide berth, for their protection and our safety (the orange cones establish a human-free buffer zone around the seals). They may on casual view seem simply to be lying

about, but a patient observer (using field glasses or a scope, if available) may see more. Female harbor seals haul out on land to give birth and nurse their pups; the breeding season begins in March, and the first healthy pups may appear then.

**Migrating gray whales** (*Eschrichtius robustus*) may be seen from the bluffs overlooking the reserve, in November and December as they travel southbound toward the breeding grounds in Baja California, and beginning around the first of March as the first males and newly-pregnant females return northbound toward their arctic feeding grounds. Mothers and their calves will pass later, in spring.

**Waterbirds** abound in the lagoons and on the beaches and the reef, including some winter visitors. Some **landbirds** may be seen on the reef as well: year-round resident **black phoebes** (*Sayornis nigricans*) are joined at mid to low tides by visiting **yellow-rumped warblers** (*Dendroica coronata*); both may be seen flying or hovering over and onto the reef and beach wrack in search of flies and other insects.

During period of heavy rain, San Vicente Creek may back up behind fallen logs where it outlets to the shore, and a **red tail hawk** (*Buteo jamaicensis*) has often been seen enthusiastically **bathing in the creek**.

Visitors on a clear day following heavy rain may see a variety of **mushrooms** in terrestrial areas of the reserve. (These are to be admired only, of course — not harvested.) On a pleasant morning in November chanterelles (*Cantharellus sp.*) were seen among the trees behind the ranger's hut, and boletes were abundant near the overlook on the bluff.

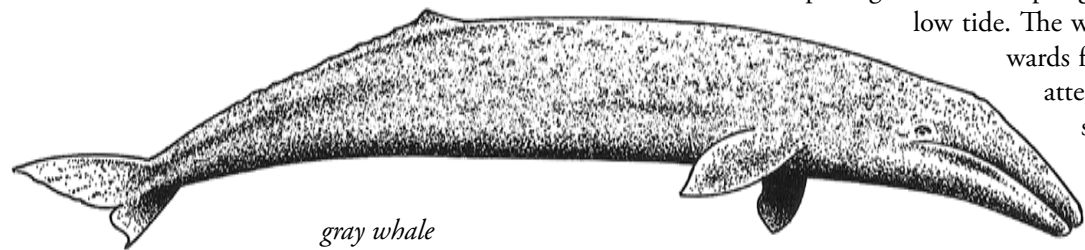
No matter the season or the weather, you're sure to have a great nature experience at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve! ♦



Tidepoolers make an interesting silhouette against the ocean.



harbor seal



gray whale



black phoebes



yellow-rumped warblers



chanterelles



boletes



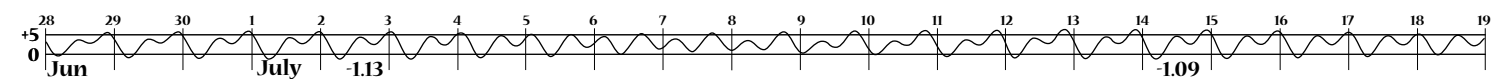
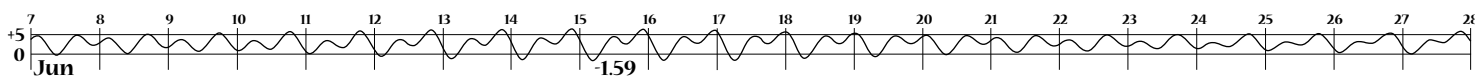
High water in San Vicente Creek boils over the rocks in the stream bed.



High water in San Vicente Creek cuts a deeper- and wider-than-usual channel through the sandy beach.

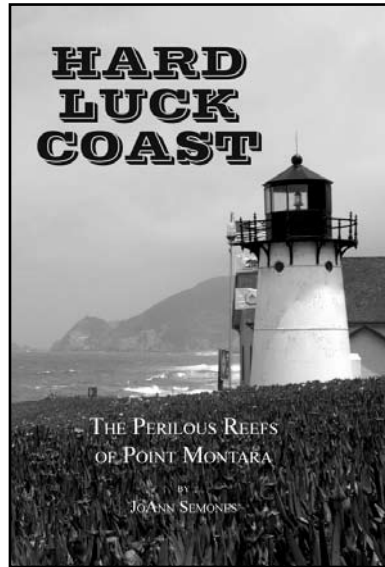


Intermittent rain didn't prevent dedicated tidepoolers from exploring FMR.



# Hard Luck Coast: The Perilous Reefs of Point Montara

by JoAnn Semones; Glencannon Press Maritime Books; 2010; 208 pp; \$26.95  
Reviewed by Julie Barrow



In her new book, author JoAnn Semones charts the history of Point Montara lighthouse and twenty-five of the area's shipwrecks. She tells the stories of these disasters and near disasters in a scholarly, yet affectionate, style that is both easy to read and informative. Included are tales of mutiny, abusive captains, Civil War heroes, torpedoed ships, a cargo of radioactive fish, and even the fate of a china doll.

shore between Montara and Half Moon Bay as "the hard luck coast." Along this foggy, final approach to San Francisco, vessels were forced to hug the shoreline, putting them in danger of its rocky outcroppings and unruly seas. According to Semones, "Each shipwreck represents a separate, yet integrated piece of history, linking us to the past."

...tales of mutiny,  
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In "Floating Palace," Semones recounts the naming of Colorado Reef, part of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. The passenger steamer *Colorado* was the largest liner of her day to sail the Pacific and was the

first American ship to carry mail to the Orient. In 1868, *Colorado* "smacked onto the reef abruptly, alarming the passengers and creating a momentary

panic aboard ship. Some of the unsuspecting travelers speculated that the shock was caused by a submarine earthquake." The ship had run aground on unseen shoals just off Point Montara but was freed and sailed on to San Francisco. The only thing she left behind was her name.

Though most of the stories have sad, often tragic endings, the tale of the wrecked lumber schooner *Argonaut* concludes happily. Mistaking the Point Montara fog signal for Point Bonita's, the captain changed course ➤

Standing only thirty feet tall, Point Montara's tiny stature belies an adventurous maritime heritage. Having stood on both the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, the tower is America's only sentinel to have witnessed shipwrecks on two shores. Point Montara Lighthouse was established in 1875 as a fog signal after several ships ran ashore in the late 1860s. The current tower was resurrected from Massachusetts' Mayo Beach light station in 1928. The beacon still serves as an active aid-to-navigation maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard.

California writer John Steinbeck referred to the treacherous strip of

Along this foggy,  
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**Wells, Fargo and Co.'s  
EXPRESS NOTICE**

**OUR PIONEER EXPRESS  
for  
YOKOHAMA & HONGKONG  
will be dispatched  
by Pacific Mail Steamship  
Company's Steamer  
COLORADO  
on  
Tuesday, January 1, 1867**

Packages and parcels will be received until 9 o'clock on the day of sailing. Treasure will be received until ten o'clock on the night prior to the sailing. Letters under cover of our franks will be dispatched for the above ports in Japan and China.

.....

Wells Fargo notice from 1867.

accordingly. Unfortunately, the ship hit the reefs below the Montara fog station. Upon being rescued by the keeper and local residents, the captain and crew found themselves in the midst of a local election and joined in the celebration. "The captain remarked that he had been shipwrecked six times," Semones writes, "but never before had he been cast up among so many kind people, such pretty women, and so much good grub."

Semones made her mark as a maritime historian with her fascinating book, *Shipwrecks, Scalawags, and Scavengers: The Storied Waters of Pigeon Point*, the first in her trilogy of coastal maritime history. She is currently at work on the third volume, about the shipwrecks at Point Sur lighthouse. ♦

"The captain remarked that he had been shipwrecked six times," Semones writes, "but never before had he been cast up among so many kind people, such pretty women, and so much good grub."



The rocks at Point Montara are known as the Colorado Reef, named after the ship *Colorado* which "smacked into the reef" in 1868 on its way to the Orient. More ships were wrecked on the rocks even after the Montara Lighthouse was installed. For more information about the wrecks and the lighthouse, see the Point Montara Lighthouse site at: <http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=78>

### About the Author: (from Amazon.com)

JoAnn Semones, Ph.D, boarded her first ship at age three. The voyage, made aboard the military transport vessel *E.D. Patrick*, left a lasting impression. She has loved sea sagas ever since. Her first book, *Shipwrecks, Scalawags, and Scavengers: The Storied Waters of Pigeon*

Point, was published by Glencannon Press Maritime Books in October 2007. As a consultant with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary program, she also developed concepts and text for the Pigeon Point Lighthouse Interpretive Center. ♦

**Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve**  
Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 669, Moss Beach, CA 94038

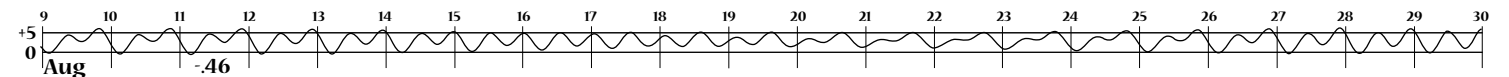
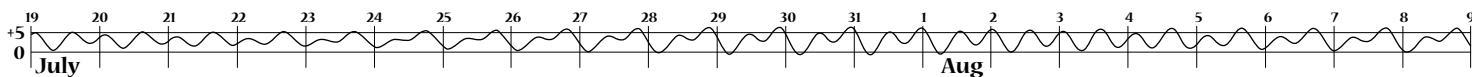
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 \$50     \$500     Other

I want to double the value of my gift through my employer's matching gift program (please enclose the matching gift forms).

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Email \_\_\_\_\_



## Seal Cove Stairs Opening

by Ellen Gartside



Dave Holland, Director of San Mateo County Parks and Representative Jackie Speier joyfully dedicated the new staircase at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Photo: Mike Davis.



An observation deck featuring one of the new graphic interpretive signs on the Seal Cove stairway at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach, Calif., on Wednesday, Oct 27, 2010. The stairway leads down to the Moss Beach reef. (Photo: John Green/Staff - Mercury News.)



The oil tanker Command.

On October 27, 2010, San Mateo County Department of Parks and the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve officially opened the new stairway to Seal Cove. Congresswoman Jackie Speier was on hand to cut the giant red ribbon at the top of the 160 step staircase.

Funding for the project was secured through a settlement established in response to an oil spill. On September 26, 1998, the oil tanker Command spilled approximately 3,000 gallons of bunker fuel as it traveled southbound in the shipping lane off the San Francisco and San Mateo County coastline. Four days later the oil began to wash over 15 miles of beaches, primarily in coastal San Mateo County, killing sea birds and damaging sandy beach and rocky shore habitats. As part of the settlement, reached in December 1999, funds were set aside for various restoration projects, including replacement of the old staircase at Seal Cove. The decomposing steep and uneven railroad timber steps have been replaced by sturdy and evenly sloped concrete and wooden steps leading from the walkway to a viewing platform and then continuing downward to the beach.

Several new interpretive signs, designed by Fallon Multimedia, have been installed on the staircase viewing platform and at the renovated Cypress Avenue entrance to the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, where the top of staircase is located. FFMR Volunteer Naturalists use the stairs to access the tidepools with school children visiting the reserve on field trips.

The staircase project was a collaborative effort and FFMR would like to acknowledge and thank all of the participating agencies, which include: San Mateo County Department of Parks, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, California State Lands Commission, Command Oil Spill Trustee Council, and Fallon Multimedia. ♦

## Pumpkin Festival Parade 2010

by Ellen Gartside

For this year's Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival parade a number of very creative and artistically talented Friends of the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Volunteer Naturalists transformed a kayak trailer into a traveling octopus's garden. With spray paint, cardboard, and crumpled paper bags a rolling rocky intertidal reef was assembled, complete with a variety of sea stars, snails, and sea slugs. Light enough to be pulled by two people, the prow of the rolling reef carried a life-like figurehead of a harbor seal. At the centerpiece blue waves with rollicking rock fish lapped at the feet of a mermaid's throne. The reef wrapped around the seat of the throne and a giant green anemone graced the back end of the rolling reef.

Several people transformed themselves into their favorite marine animal to join in the parade and frolic in the octopus's garden. A jellyfish was seen floating down Main Street, several octopuses crawled along and a gigantic sea star was a definite hit with the crowd. Our regal, purple-haired mermaid waved her pumpkin scepter and tossed Swedish Fish (*Incertae sedis*) to the crowd. Volunteers not in costume were appropriately adorned with crab hats, and passed FFMR bookmarks to eager spectators. Some among the families in the crowd were heard to say "Oh, the marine reserve! That's our favorite place!" and "We love the tidepools!"

We hope you will join us next year! ♦

*"I'd like to be under the sea in an octopus's garden in the shade ..."*

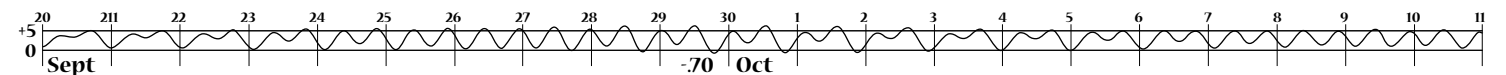
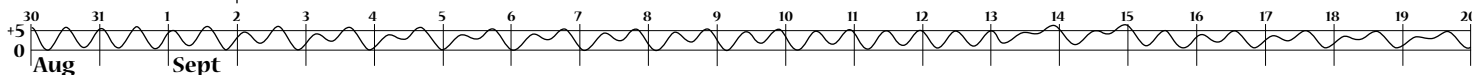
—The Beatles

(Attr. R. Starkey)



Left: Friends of Fitzgerald Pumpkin Parade float.

Below: Three clever Friends' creature creations: a sparkling purple starfish, a splendid white and purple jellyfish and a marvelous giant red squid. (Our thanks to Carolyn Springer for her terrific photos.)






FRIENDS OF  
FITZGERALD  
MARINE RESERVE

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## More Family Fun Days in 2011!

by Jenna Kinghorn

Family Fun Days have proven quite popular, so we intend to continue them in 2011! Here's what we've got planned so far. These events are FREE and open to the public, but attendance may be limited, and some require pre-registration. Check our website for the most up-to-date information about these and other events!



*Beach Cleanup Day and Family Fun Day are great outings for families.*



### Earth Day 2011 Beach Cleanup

**Saturday April 23: 9 a.m. to noon**

Meet at Mirada Surf near Surfer's Beach in El Granada and spread out to clean up the beach, bluffs, parking lots, highway margins and surface streets. We'll be lending out pick-up sticks and will have disposable gloves and bags, but we encourage you to bring your own bucket and reusable work gloves so we can consolidate trash and recyclables as much as possible. Spread the word to friends and family who might like to join us for this event! Open to kids of all ages under supervision of an adult. If you'd like to organize a team, contact Ranger Sarah Lenz: slenz@co.sanmateo.ca.us or 650-728-3584.

### Family Fun Day at FMR!

**Sunday June 19: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

There's a good low tide this Father's Day morning, one of the best of the summer. Come learn about ocean creatures at our Exploration Stations and then explore the tidepools with some of our volunteer naturalists. Open to kids ages 8 and up with a parent. Attendance is limited and PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED! Please RSVP to Ranger Sarah Lenz: slenz@co.sanmateo.ca.us or 650-728-3584.

### Breakfast at the Reserve

**Sunday, July 17: 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.**

There's an extremely low tide this morning. Bring the family to visit with our staff and volunteers over a FREE breakfast pastry and beverage, then explore the tidepools with some of our volunteer naturalists. PRE-REGISTRATION recommended (so we don't run out of food!) Please RSVP to Ranger Sarah Lenz: slenz@co.sanmateo.ca.us or 650-728-3584.