

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 2006

Note to editors: photos available at www.mendocinoheritage.org

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Mendocino Area State Parks to Participate in 3rd Annual Heritage Days May 5 – 14

MENDOCINO – California State Parks in the Mendocino area will participate in the third annual Heritage Days, May 5 – 14. The history of the town of Mendocino, one of only two national historic preservation districts in California, will come to life during the special event with Point Cabrillo Light Station and Mendocino Headlands and Van Damme State Parks playing an important role in this year's celebration.

Point Cabrillo State Light Station is two miles north of Mendocino on Point Cabrillo Drive. Mendocino Headlands State Park surrounds the town of Mendocino and includes Big River. Van Damme State Park is three miles south of Mendocino on Highway One.

“For ten days we will bring the history of the town and local California State Parks to life,” said Heritage Days coordinator Nancy Freeze. “This festival is about sharing and preserving Mendocino’s history. We are making Heritage Days both educational and entertaining.”

The 2006 celebration will feature a series of living history reenactments, 19th century family games, museum exhibits, archaeological seminars, heritage rose garden tours, and demonstrations of Native American uses of native plants. Many events are free. For a list of events, go on-line to: www.mendocinoheritage.org

Point Cabrillo Light Station Activities

Families will be able to visit the light station and nature preserve from 9 a.m. until one hour after sunset. Special events will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in and around the lighthouse and light keeper's houses. Admission to the site is free.

Fresnel Lens Tour: During the first Saturday of the event, May 6, the public will have a rare opportunity to climb the stairs into the lens and lantern room. Uniformed members of Flotilla 87, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, will provide guided tours to groups of six visitors at half-hour intervals. Visitors must pre-register through the Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association office at (707) 937-6120. The fee is \$15 per person. For safety, no one under 12

years of age will be permitted on the tour. Tour proceeds will help maintain the lighthouse and associated buildings.

Lighthouse History: Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association docents and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary members will provide historical information and facts to visitors in and around the lighthouse throughout the event.

Frolic Cove Walks: Point Cabrillo Lightkeepers Association docents will lead two walks to the Frolic shipwreck site in Frolic Cove during the day. The Frolic story and information about the Gold Rush era shipwreck will be provided during the walk and at the shipwreck site.

Native American History: Point Cabrillo was a summer gathering ground for the Mitom Pomo people for thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers in the 1850's. Visitors will be able to learn about the life of the Pomo people in the exhibit in the Kearn's Farmhouse at the visitor center at the entrance to the preserve and from the history docent presentations.

Light Keeper's Residence: The recently restored East Lightkeeper's residence will be open to the public, giving visitors the opportunity to learn how families lived in the early 20th century and hear stories of lighthouse life at Point Cabrillo from docents.

Marine Science Exhibits and Whale Puzzle: The coastal marine aquarium and photo exhibits will be open to visitors in the blacksmith/carpenters shop.

Ford House (Mendocino Headlands State Park) and Van Damme State Park Activities

Sunday, May 7

1 – 4 p.m. • Living History Day • Ford House (Visitor Center for Mendocino Headlands State Park) • 1850's lifestyle demonstrations will include butter churning, spinning, weaving, quilting, knitting, 19th century games. Visitors will have the chance to see the Volunteer Fire Department demonstrate their 1887 hand-pump fire engine. A volunteer portraying Jerome Ford will reenact his 1851 journey up the wild coastline from Bodega Bay. Flintknapping demonstrations and Native American games and storytelling have been added to the event this year.

Saturday, May 13

10 a.m. • Logging Tour of Van Damme State Park • four hours • Rex Smith will lead a hike through Van Damme State Park. Visitors are advised to wear sturdy shoes, carry water, and bring a lunch for this four-hour hike.

Sunday, May 14

2 p.m. • Tea with volunteers portraying Mrs. Ford & Mrs. Kelley • two hours • Ford House • \$25 (in advance) • Traditional Victorian Tea.

For more information, call (707) 964-3844.

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