

## Gualala Arts Lecture Series

### HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN SONOMA COAST

WITH SUSAN M. CLARK

Admission is \$5

MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2010, 7:00 P.M.

South Coast residents will find Susan M. Clark's history of northern Sonoma coastal 5,000 acre ranch, now called The Sea Ranch, a fascinating and informative evening.

The history begins in 1846 when German settler Ernest Rufus received the Rancho German Mexican land grant. The grant extended along the coastline from the Gualala River to Ocean Cove. The story continues until the land is sold in the mid-1960 to Oceanic Properties to develop a the planned community with distinctive architecture and ideals to live lightly on the land.

Clark will delve into the personalities, and peculiarities of the successive owners. What enabled some to prosper and others to fail? In addition, she will describe some of the challenges a historian faces when reconstructing the past in a remote area without basic primary documents such as local newspapers and with only a few permanent residents as resources.

A fourth generation California native and an architectural historian, Clark has provided historic property evaluations and preservation plans for hundreds of California properties. Inevitably, once she purchased a Sea Ranch lot and built there, she explored not only the landscape but also the history of the area.

Eventually, her research developed into her Masters thesis on the local history of the area. Her book, *The Sea Ranch*, published in 2009 by Arcadia Publishing, was number one for six months at Four-Eyed Frog Books, Gualala's independent bookstore, and was their best seller for 2009. Joel Crockett, owner of the Four-Eyed Frog, will have the book for sale and available for signing.

She will give us a deeper appreciation of the south coast's past and a better understanding of the area's features.



## The Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees (FoT) committee is gearing up for another magical faire on Friday and Saturday, November 26 and 27. We hope you will attend the Festival to savor our hearty food and drink, enjoy the free entertainment, visit with Santa and select that perfect locally handmade gift for someone special.

As you can imagine, an event like this takes lots of volunteer effort, so if you would be interested in helping, please contact the FoT Committee Chair, Michele Marshall (785-1084 or [geomichele@hughes.net](mailto:geomichele@hughes.net)) and she will connect you with the appropriate sub-committee. There are food and baked goods to prepare, cookies and trees to decorate, tickets to sell and holiday decorations to install. Skills of every type are needed.

The committee is also looking for donations of faux Holiday trees (with lights), strings of lights and decorations to create a festive environment. Craft supplies for children would also be appreciated. All donations should be in good, working condition. Of course Gualala Arts is always accepting cash donations and sponsorship recognition is available on all levels of giving. If you have a donation, please contact Michele at the above number or Gualala Arts office 884-1138 asap.