

2017 CLAM DIG

PATRICK'S POINT STATE PARK AND SOUTHERN HUMBOLDT BAY MUDFLATS JULY 20, 21, 22, and 23, 2017

All CDFW staff and their families and friends are once again being invited to head out to the mudflats of Southern Humboldt Bay and adjacent coastal waters in pursuit of the wily bivalves, crustaceans, and fish that reside there. CDFW Staff from all regions, divisions, branches, et cetera, and of all ages are welcome to join in the fantastic fun, food, festivities, and comradery. We only have space for a maximum of 100 people in our group campsite, so get back to us as soon as possible if you plan on attending.

The fun will begin with check-in at the Red Alder Group Campsite at Patrick's Point State Park beginning as early as 1400 hours on Thursday, July 20, 2017. The highlight of our event will be going out en masse to the mudflats early Saturday morning to dig clams and laugh at each other sloshing through the mud.

After reading this notice, if you have any questions regarding reserving a camping spot at the area, fishing opportunities, or the Saturday evening potluck dinner, please contact **Mike Harris at (916) 334- 2043**.

Attention to all potential anglers and crabbers: The total space available on boats to the crabbing areas, Humboldt Bay halibut holes, and ocean rockfish reefs is limited so be sure to sign-up right away by contacting Mike.

Friday night, we will gather for a short, informal, and non-required, but **extreemly** interesting overview of what will happen Saturday morning. A famous Malacologist, Dr. Goo E. Duck, will present a 5 minute college credit seminar on "Life in, on, and under the Mudflats" followed by a discussion of the regulations on clamming, clam identification, the clam chowder tasting competition, and any other competitions. We will have a static display of posters depicting a map of where we are going, mudflat ecology, and photos of previous Clam Dig events.

For those of you coming for the first time, general meal preparation takes place Saturday afternoon followed by an incredible gastronomic delight. The meal that night will hopefully include clams cooked several different ways, clam chowder, fish stew, rock fish, Dungeness or red rock crabs, and barbequed oysters. We hopefully will also have Salmon, Shark, Albacore, Abalone, Day Fish, Halibut, Lingcod, and a special treat or two. This is of course assuming that the fish catching crews can catch any crabs or fish and some of our attendees are willing to clean out their freezers and bring along some goodies to share with everyone!

Each family or unattached individual participating will be asked to bring something to the dinner such as a salad, snacks, veggie tray, dessert, garlic bread, etc. Volunteers to help with cooking would also be greatly appreciated. Dinner will be followed by an informal program recognizing the work of volunteers. The Golden Clam

Awards, The Mudder Awards, and a great time around the campfire are to be had, so bring your guitar, harmonica, banjo, washtub and hammer, or whatever. Sunday is a general relax and take it easy day with check-out of the campground by around 1200 hours.

The group campground has been reserved and the use fee paid. All participants, whether they actually camp at the group site or just show up for Saturday's festivities, will be asked to pitch in to help defray the total cost for using the campground.

To keep things simple, for the folks who arrive Thursday, Friday or Saturday, the total cost for camping the entire weekend will not exceed **\$30.00** for each adult camper (includes camping on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, and full use opportunities in the campgrounds on Sunday). Adult campers are 18 years of age and up. For those attendees not able to pay in advance using the attached sign-up sheet, arrangements will be made to have them pay their fair share while at the group site.

Specific details of the festivities are as follows:

Directions to Patrick's Point State Park

The park is located about 25 miles north of Eureka (five miles north of Trinidad) off of Highway 101. Take the Patrick's Point freeway off-ramp, turn left and go under the freeway, immediately turn left again on the frontage road (Patrick's Point Drive) and proceed south about one mile to the park entrance. When you get to the check-in booth, tell the park employees that you want to get to the Red Alder Group Campsite. The group site has already been paid for so if you plan on staying there with us you will not need to pay anything at the booth. The only exception will be the standard park fee if you choose to bring a dog into the park. Dog owners will be subject to the strict enforcement of the park rules, in particular the leash rule and the areas closed to dogs. If you get there late and no one is at the booth, proceed into the park, stay on the road which veers to the right, and continue, passing the Agate Campground turnoff to the left, continuing to veer to the right, and turn right, across from the Yurok Village parking lot until you reach the Red Alder Group Campsite Area parking lot. Consider Thursday to be a travel day and feel free to arrive at any time after 1400 hours. Of course, the sooner you arrive, the better your chances are of getting a choice area to pitch your tent. The Park Office phone number is (707) 677-3570.

Campsite Info

The group campground is completely self-contained and will comfortably accommodate 100 people which is the maximum capacity for the facility. Due to the limited vehicle parking area, the site is geared entirely toward tent camping. There is a large meadow surrounded by trees for this purpose. Vehicular traffic on the meadow is expressly prohibited. Vehicles must be parked in legal spots. Everyone will need to bring their own camping gear. This should include a lantern and flashlights. You are welcome to use the group cooking area to prepare your meals but you will have to bring your own stove. It is not uncommon this time of year for "Humboldt Mist" to invade the campground so bring a rain fly or tarp to cover your tent as well as a good waterproof ground cover.

The group cooking area is enclosed and has large sinks and electrical outlets as

well as numerous picnic tables and a large campfire area. The campsite area also has its own shower facilities but there is only one shower for men and one for women, so expect to have to wait your turn to use them. There is a single parking area for about 35 vehicles; however, we can use adjacent parking (Yurok Village) as an overflow area if we have to. Participants who wish to bring a tent trailer or travel trailer are welcome to join us but will need to make their own arrangements for a campsite elsewhere at the park. This can be done only through the State Park system's reservation agent at (800) 444-7275. If you wish to obtain a separate campsite for your RV or tent trailer, we suggest you call this number immediately.

For those who would like more modern accommodations, there are numerous motels, bed and breakfast inns, private campgrounds, and RV parks in Trinidad, McKinleyville, Arcata, and Eureka.

Clamming in Southern Humboldt Bay

Because the low tide this year occurs relatively early in the morning, we plan to clam on Saturday morning to get our clams for dinner. We access the mudflats along South Spit Road on the west side of Humboldt Bay across the bay from Fields Landing which is located about five miles south of Eureka off of Highway 101. Take the Hookton Road off ramp, then proceed to Table Bluff Road, continue until you reach South Spit Road.

Highly trained, competent, and proficient bivalve diggers will give a brief training session regarding clamming do's and don'ts to neophytes of the clamming scene. Once we have obtained a suitable supply of clams, or the tide comes back in, we will return to Patrick's Point State Park to remove the mud deposits from our bodies and begin preparing the clams for the feast Saturday evening.

Suggested clamming gear, clothing and supplies include:

- all participants age 16 years and older will need to have a valid California fishing license in their possession. Clam measuring devices will be provided.
- five gallon plastic buckets and/or sturdy gunnysacks for holding clams will be provided.
- a small hand trowel for digging clams, if desired. Most people prefer to just use their hands (it's more fun).
- old clothes, including a light jacket, that you don't mind having mud-stained forever. Wear separate layers of clothing so you can add or remove clothes depending on weather conditions and your own body temperature as you get into your own personal degree of clamming frenzy.
- tight fitting, old tennis shoes (high tops stay on better) that you can lace up tightly and won't mind throwing away when you're done. Veteran clammers wrap duct tape, which will be provided, around their shoes and lower pant leg, (similar to first aid for a sprained ankle) to keep the shoes on and mud on the outside of their clothes. Some people like to wear hip boots or light chest waders but these are prone to getting stuck in the mud and can be more frustrating than protective.

- towels, dry clothes, and shoes to change into rather than waiting until you return to the campground 45 minutes later. This is particularly important for young children and some adults who will want to get dry and warm as soon as they return to their vehicles. Large plastic bags will be available to put mud stained clothes in.

-old blankets or plastic sheeting to place over vehicle seats and floorboards while returning to the campground if you don't want them mud-stained forever.

- there are no restrooms or water available at the clamming site, so come prepared.

Boats and Fishing Opportunities

In 2015, a last minute addition to the clam dig event was a combination rockfish/crab partyboat trip. It turned out to be a very popular and successful bonus to the weekend. There were only four spaces left on the boat that were available to us. We were able to fill all four spots, everyone limited out, and we ended up adding fresh rockfish and crab to the dinner menu. I would like to add a partyboat trip to this year's clam dig. If we have enough interest, I will try to secure spots on a boat or possibly charter a boat (6-8 people) just for our group. Let me know as early as you can if you are interested in this fun addition to the clam dig.

Attention to all potential anglers and crabbers: the total space available on boats to the crabbing areas, Humboldt Bay halibut holes, and ocean rockfish reefs will be limited so be sure to sign-up right away by contacting Mike.

Meals and Saturday Nights' Dinner

All participants will be responsible for providing their own meals on Thursday, Friday, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Saturday night's feast is definitely a group and team building effort with all participants urged to get involved and help. This is really a lot of fun and a great opportunity to meet new people. Dinner is scheduled for about 1700 hours.

Although your help would be appreciated in obtaining and/or preparing various critters for dinner, it is not mandatory. If you're squeamish about such things, that's no problem. In other words, don't make the decision to stay home because you think it will be mandatory to get muddy or handle slimy fish or clams! We would like to have you come anyway and at least visit and join us for dinner. Even if you don't like clams or seafood, there will be tons of great salads and other hot dishes for you to enjoy. And the dessert table will really knock your socks off! After all, one of the great benefits of this experience is to get to know our CDFW family better.

If you are willing to help prepare the evening meal, please bring several small hand held scrub brushes, large bowls (plastic or stainless steel), cutting board, sharp knives, large frying skillet, large cooking pot, aluminum foil, et cetera. Utensils, plates, glasses, cups, bowls (these are a must for clam chowder), condiments, beverages, and ice will be provided. If you have a very high heat/high BTU propane burner, please

bring it along because they work great for cooking larger batches of deep-fried tempura fish. If you don't have this high heat type of stove, please bring the older style pump-up stove that uses Coleman fuel because they get much hotter than the standard newer stoves that use propane. Cooking oil, tempura batter, paper towels, and condiments will be provided.

We again plan to have a clam chowder cook-off in which contestants will make a small batch (at least one gallon) of chowder using their old family secret recipe. Be sure to indicate on your sign-up sheet if you wish to be a contestant. If you do, be sure and bring all of your own secret recipe components. We'll provide the clams and labor to prepare them for cooking. We will also reimburse you for the cost of your ingredients because your chowder will be an important part of the dinner.

If you need to be reached in case of an emergency at home, the park phone number is (707) 677-3570.

We hope we can help you decide to come to this special Year 2017 event! It is really a ton of fun so don't miss it!

Well, that about does it for the explanation of this super fun event! Please fill out and return the attached sign-up sheet ASAP to Michael Harris, 4504 Hayford Way, Sacramento, California 95842. Please make your check payable to Michael Harris. If you wish, you can notify me by phone of your desire to attend by calling (916) 334-2043.

Take care everyone,

Michael D Harris

2017 CLAM DIG REGISTRATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime Telephone Number: _____

> Are you interested in participating in the clam digging activity?

Yes _____ No _____

> Would you be interested in going out fishing on a partyboat trip while camping?

Yes _____ No _____

> Are you interested in going out to the beach to look for razor clams?

Yes _____ No _____

> Do you want to have a large potluck dinner on Friday and Saturday?

Yes _____ No _____

> Do you have a super output (130,000 btu) propane burner/stove you can bring?

Yes _____ No _____

> Would you be interested in being a contestant in a clam chowder cook-off?

Yes _____ No _____

> Please circle what you will be bringing to share for Saturday's dinner*:

Salad Dessert Veggie Tray Bread Snacks

Other (please describe):

* As a rough guide those with last names starting with A-I bring a salad, last names starting with J-Q bring bread or appetizers, and those with last names starting with R-Z bring a dessert. It's not mandatory, just a suggestion.

Cost is **\$30.00** per adult camper Number of Campers _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Number of Adults _____

Please mail your registration and personal check (made payable to Michael Harris) to:

Michael Harris, 4504 Hayford Way, Sacramento, CA 95842

Questions? Phone Mike at 916-334-2043