

ROBERT F. KENNEDY, JR. ANNOUNCES "RIVERKEEPER" PROJECT

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community claiming the Riverkeeper program is an attack on private property rights.

"There will be no stronger advocate for property rights in the Russian River than Riverkeeper. The Russian River is not owned by lumber companies or gravel companies or the Board of Supervisors," he said, "everyone has a right to use it." Kennedy asserted many times that private property rights do not equal the right to pollute and that environmental laws are no different from other laws. "We're going to protect private property rights and public property rights," said Kennedy, and added, "The Russian River unites people with a common experience and heritage and it should be protected."

At the end of the press conference Kennedy, "Riverkeeper" Don McEnhill, and three other volunteers carried the *RussianKeeper 1* boat down to



Photo: Peeter Vilms

"Russiankeeper 1", freshly christened and heading for the water!



Photo: Peeter Vilms

RFK Jr. speaks to the Launch Party audience.

the banks of the river. There Kennedy and McEnhill gave the boat a maiden voyage.

"This is a marvelous opportunity for the people of Sonoma County to reassert control of their water," commented Assembly candidate Patty Berg, "it's something we should expand on in other rivers throughout the district." Rohnert Park resident Kevin McLoughlin who attended the press conference said that Kennedy was very well informed and was excited to see him speak. "The river isn't just important to me, it's important to everybody."

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You can reach Chris Salvano by contacting the North Bay Progressive at (707) 525-1422.

HELP! Our program is growing and, like any organism in its early development, is always hungry!

Things we need to help establish and enhance our Russian River protection efforts include:

- 300 sq ft of office space we can call "home," preferably in a town on or near the River
- Reliable 35mm cameras, for documenting environmental problems
- Late model Pentium PC, for GIS and water testing database management
- File cabinets – legal preferred, as environmental protection work generates a lot of paperwork!
- 3-ring binders, for water testing forms, environmental documents and notices and publications
- Pictures of the Russian River from days gone by
- Kayaks, canoes, paddles, life jackets for our on-the-River programs
- Airline miles; for travel to conferences and educational programs and to bring experts here to teach

— All donations are tax deductible!

A BIG THANK YOU TO THERESE SHERE!

Long-time FORR board member and treasurer Therese Shere will be leaving us in September after six years of service to devote more time to her business. One of our hardest working board members, the FORR board is deeply appreciative to Therese for all her work, financial stewardship and astute judgment. We also thank Therese's family for enduring all those Thursday night meetings! Good Luck Therese, we'll miss you!



Photo: Peeter Vilms

King Salmon Club members, Judy Johnston, Tracey Matthes and Jenny Emerson enjoying the Sunset at the Launch Party!

RUSSIAN RIVER ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM DONATION TO FORR BUYS RUSSIANKEEPER 1

Thanks to a generous donation from Russian River Environmental Forum, FORR was able to purchase the official patrol boat for its Riverkeeper project. A used 12' Klamath aluminum skiff was found and purchased in February. FORR repainted the boat along with some repairs to seats to get it ready for the Russian. The boat, *Russiankeeper 1* will be used during higher flow periods in the winter. The boat came with a clean, zero discharge Honda 4-stroke outboard for use during high priority responses. A trolling motor was also included and is already being put to use during the summer months in Russian Riverkeeper's, 15 ft Old Town canoe, *Green Machine*. *Russiankeeper 1* is a valuable addition to our growing fleet and will be a big help during our water testing programs for it's larger size and ease to work from. The Russian Riverkeeper fleet now consists of 3 kayaks, our canoe and *Russiankeeper 1* and allows us to get onto creeks of all sizes as well as high water during winter.



Photo: Peeter Vilms

RREF board members Tammie Fraser, Lynn Newton and Dr. Martin Griffin pose with Riverkeeper Don McEnhill and Waterkeeper Alliance President Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

EVENT CALENDAR

RUSSIAN RIVER UNLIMITED 10TH ANNUAL GREAT RUSSIAN RIVER CLEAN-UP & FLOAT

August 17th – Hopland to Cloverdale • September 21st – Participant's Party
Call 707-462-4649 to sign up and help!

2002 RIVER APPRECIATION FESTIVAL AT HOP KILN WINERY

September 15th 3-6pm

A benefit for Riverkeeper, Friends of the Russian River, RR Environmental Forum and SCCC. Featuring a BBQ dinner, guest speaker Rick Dove of Waterkeeper Alliance, Entertainment, Environmental Booths, Awards and several Russian River wineries pouring their finest! Tickets - \$35 advance, Info 578-0595

CELEBRATION OF THE RUSSIAN RIVER

September 14-22nd

A 9 day event with the spiritual carrying of water from the headwaters to the Ocean and other events. For more information call 874-2871

ANNUAL RUSSIAN RIVER CLEAN-UP

September 28th

Help clean up the Russian and it's tributaries in Sonoma County, sponsored by Sequoia Paddling Club. Call 707-577-7151 or visit www.russinarivercleanup.org

