Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) hosted its fourth annual Dinner on the Pacific Plate fundraiser on September 21, 2013 at the grove across from the Bear Valley Visitor Center. The event has become a West Marin tradition and includes pre-dinner hikes and activities in the park, cocktails under the trees and dinner under an elegant tent.

This year’s sold out event celebrated the fifth anniversary of the restoration of the Giacomini Wetlands and included a special showcase of the restoration project hosted by Bob Giacomini, Jules Evens and park staff. The other 11 hikes and activities, led by park staff and PRNSA’s Field Institute instructors, highlighted the park’s natural and cultural resources and ranged from an avian adventure at Abbotts Lagoon, to a talk about ranching in the park past to present, to a walk focused on the treasury of botanicals used by the Coast Miwok.

The sun came out just in time to welcome the 300 hungry hikers to the sounds of Fly and Pedersen Old Time String Band and a lively cocktail hour hosted by Cowgirl Creamery, Hog Island Oyster Company, Nicasio Valley Cheese Company, Nick’s Cove, Saltwater Oyster Depot, and the Station House Cafe. Wine and beer were generously provided by Heidrun Meadery, Iron Springs Pub and Brewery, Pey-Marin Vineyards, Preston Vineyards and Weese Family Winery. Pam Ferrari Custom Catering prepared a sumptuous and locally-sourced three-course meal.
The event’s brief program focused on the value of partnerships and how a community can be built around a love for a landscape. David Calderon, a counselor in training at PRNSA’s summer camp, spoke about how PRNSA’s scholarship program brought him to Point Reyes for the first time three years ago and how the experience has taught him to care for the natural world and share it with others.

Superintendent Cicely Muldoon spoke to the imagination and common purpose of the private citizens, public agencies, and philanthropic foundations that worked together to undertake the Giacomini Wetlands restoration. “In the long run, nothing is more important than engaging the next generation in conservation work,” she said. “The Giacomini Wetlands serve as a terrific laboratory and classroom, where kids come from the local community and around the Bay Area come to experience this special place, get muddy, and learn about wetlands, science, and national parks. We are very proud to work with our PRNSA colleagues in the Giacomini Wetlands Youth Science Program.”

Samaria Jaffe, PRNSA’s new executive director, announced that PRNSA would use funds raised through its Trails Challenge campaign to work with the National Park Service to rehabilitate and enhance the Estero Trail in the coming year. “We are thrilled to be helping the park rehab the Estero Trail, which as one of the most loved trails, needs the most attention.”

Thanks to the support of over 200 sponsors, in-kind donors, and volunteers, Dinner on the Pacific Plate raised $210,000. Proceeds from the event support a variety of projects that preserve and maintain wildlife habitat, trails, and historic sites in the park and PRNSA’s scholarship fund for underserved children who attend PRNSA’s summer camp and school year programs. The event also included an online auction of special Point Reyes and Bay Area experiences that aim to deepen the public’s connection to nature and the park. For a full listing of the event’s supporters and to learn more about PRNSA’s work, visit www.ptreyes.org. Mark your calendars! The next Dinner on the Pacific Plate is slated for September 20, 2014.