



Save-the-Redwoods League

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SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE PAIRS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC SUCCESS IN SALE OF HARTSOOK INN

SAN FRANCISCO— Save-the-Redwoods League and Bennett and Delphina Dorrance will be at the Hartsook Inn on Friday June 8 at 2:00 p.m. to announce the permanent protection of this grove of ancient redwoods and the sale of this cherished Humboldt County landmark.

In 1998 Save-the-Redwoods League stepped in to protect the Hartsook Inn's ancient redwoods after the prior owners filed a timber harvest plan on the majestic grove. The Hartsook Inn is located on more than thirty-three acres adjacent to Richardson Grove State Park and the South Fork Eel River. It has welcomed travelers to the redwoods since the 1930s. Located in Southern Humboldt County, approximately three and a half hours north of San Francisco, the property marks the southern gateway to the redwoods for all travelers. Over the past nine years the League has explored several options for the land that would protect the redwoods while respecting the community's desire for local economic development and cultural benefits on the site.

Last fall, the Dorrances and their Realtor, Suzi Schultz of Garberville, presented the League with an offer to purchase the property followed by a letter of intent. The League is now pleased to announce the sale of the Hartsook Inn to the Dorrances. The League will retain a conservation easement – a voluntary conservation agreement – to ensure the ancient redwoods are forever protected. The agreement also allows trail access from Richardson Grove State Park to the South Fork of the Eel River and the renowned Hartsook Giant--a 13 foot diameter redwood. The Dorrances purchased Hartsook Inn to complement the Heartwood Institute, a healing arts school they recently acquired. Ownership of the Hartsook Inn will allow the Dorrances to expand Heartwood's reach from the remote hills east of Garberville to a more readily accessible site where visitors will once again be able to stay amid the ancient redwoods.

Bennett Dorrance, Jr. is co-executive director of New Moon Foundation; a values-based non-profit whose purpose is to practice right relationship with self, others, and the land. Delphina Dorrance, (born Leigh Delphina Miller) is co-executive director of Heartwood Institute, a licensed massage and aquatic therapist, Hawaii Realtor and professional upright bass player. Bennett and Delphina reside principally on the Big Island in Hawaii. Both are board members of the Dorrance Family Foundation, whose values and mission are dedicated to natural resource conservation and education.

The Dorrances have been working diligently at the Heartwood Institute to update and improve the healing arts school, its community and its vision. The purchase of the Hartsook property marks a key element in the Dorrances' desire to allow Heartwood, and its vision, to touch more lives. They wish to revive the function of the Hartsook Inn, add new elements, and expand its purpose. They expect to include a spa that will allow Heartwood students and faculty to offer their skills to a broader audience (while gaining professional training), and revamp the restaurant, building on Heartwood's almost 30 year commitment to whole foods cuisine. It will become a rustic, redwood forest retreat, conference center and high quality venue for the Southern Humboldt community and visitors.

"The Dorrances' purchase of the Hartsook Inn is a wonderful outcome for the redwoods, Humboldt County, and the league. It ensures the redwoods are protected, while enabling economic revitalization at the southern gateway to the redwoods. We couldn't have custom ordered a better steward for the thirty-three acre parcel of land," said Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of Save-the-Redwoods League.

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About Save-the-Redwoods League

Save-the-Redwoods League is dedicated to protecting ancient redwood forests so that all generations can experience the majesty of these towering giants. In 1850, there were nearly two million acres of ancient coast redwood forests in California. Today, less than five percent remain. Since its founding in 1918, the League has protected more than 170,000 acres of land and played a vital role in the establishment of 39 redwood parks and reserves. More than six out of ten acres of redwoods in California's State Parks have been protected by Save-the-Redwoods League. For more information, visit www.savetheredwoods.org or call 415-362-2352.

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