

A Place in the Forest

Redwood Grove and Tree Dedication Highlights

December 2008

The Healing Power of Nature

Rather than a traditional memorial service, Andrea and Dan Speraw chose to pay tribute to their nature-loving mother with a ceremony among the redwoods. On September 6, 2008, more than 40 friends and family members gathered in **Portola Redwoods State Park** for the dedication of the Ruth Krag Speraw Memorial Grove. This special tribute was made possible by a gift Ruth made one year earlier to support Save the Redwoods League, while also taking advantage of recently passed charitable IRA distribution legislation.

During a moving speech, Andrea described her meaningful and healing journey to select the grove, which is about 20 miles west of San Jose.

“It was in this search that I found a way to express my grief. It gave me the opportunity to reconnect with my mother in a way that she and I had often done while she was alive... through the beauty and healing power of nature.”

— Andrea Speraw

Reflections at the ceremony spoke of Ruth’s bold and adventurous soul. Her love of nature and the outdoors began in her youth, when the Krag family often headed for the mountains to sleep on pine needles and camp under the stars.



The Speraw family and friends at the grove dedication.

As a teenager, Ruth bussed tables in Yosemite National Park’s Tuolumne Meadows. Her strong interest in conservation stemmed from these early experiences, eventually developing into a commitment to protect the giant sequoia and coast redwood. As Andrea said, “That devotion reaches its culmination today, as this memorial grove is dedicated thanks to her generous support of Save the Redwoods League and their mission to preserve some of California’s most beautiful forest lands.”

During the ceremony near the confluence of Pescadero Creek and Peters Creek in the rugged natural basin forest of Portola Redwoods State Park, friends and family were moved by San Francisco Opera singer Holly Brown’s song “Trees” and a reading from Ralph Waldo Emerson’s “Nature,” followed by a champagne toast to Ruth and the redwoods.

A Place of Peace and Reflection

David and Twyla Weinberg found a fitting place to memorialize Twyla’s parents—in the magnificent **Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve**. This 3,360-acre preserve on the western slopes of the Santa Cruz Mountains overlooking Half Moon Bay is often described as a hidden redwood gem. In summer 2008, among the towering redwoods and an understory of ferns, berries and wildflowers, the couple established the Harold and Nina Osborne Memorial Grove.

This tangible tribute leaves both a personal and an environmental legacy. Along with bringing closure to her loss, Twyla says she really enjoys having this beautiful setting to share with others.

“This beautiful redwood grove has exceeded my expectations. I always feel at peace when I visit and reflect on my parents. I know they would have loved it here.”

— Twyla Weinberg

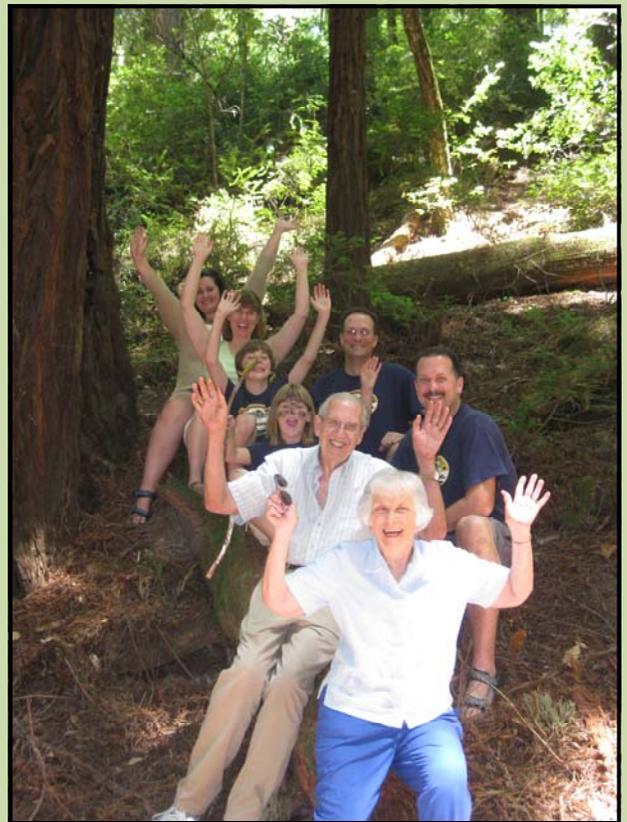


Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Fun with the Woods Family

After being committed members of Save the Redwoods League for 40 years, Phillip and Mary Woods were excited to dedicate not one, but four redwood trees in **Butano State Park**. This beautiful 3,500-acre park is midway between Santa Cruz and Half Moon Bay near the small town of Pescadero, California, where Phillip's father was once a teacher and principal at the local elementary school.

On a beautiful Saturday in May 2008, the Woods family and Save the Redwoods League staff members gathered to dedicate these four special trees in memory of Mark and Leila Woods, Phillip's father and sister respectively. A picnic lunch with fried chicken and Mary's homemade treats was followed by a reading of "The Redwoods" by Joseph B. Strauss and Dr. Jesse Baird's sermon from the dedication of another significant redwood—the General Grant Tree in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park as the



Three generations pay tribute at Butano State Park.



Phillip and Mary's grandchildren have fun exploring a stump and painting their faces with redwood resin.

Nation's Christmas Tree. Just as people have returned many times to rededicate themselves to the spirit of the season in the presence of this magnificent tree, the Woods family now has their place to gather and pay tribute to their loved ones while experiencing the wonder of the redwood forest.

"This is their temple, vaulted high, and here we pause with reverent eye, with silent tongue and awe-struck soul; for here we sense life's proper goal."

— Excerpt from "The Redwoods,"
by Joseph B. Strauss.

Dedicate Your Unique Place in the Redwoods

Perhaps there is no more fitting way to honor or memorialize someone or something than by ensuring that the peace, perspective and sense of awe that comes from the ancient redwood forest is kept alive forever.



Dedicating a redwood grove or tree through a gift to Save the Redwoods helps preserve the beauty of the redwoods, while setting aside a special place in this unique forest where you and your loved ones may enjoy the trees, rivers and wildlife. Your contribution will support vital work including land protection, forest restoration, education and research.

For more information about dedicating a redwood grove or tree, please contact Megan Ferreira at (888) 836-0005, extension 309, or mferreira@savetheredwoods.org.



Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year!

Save the Redwoods League • (888) 836-0005 • savetheredwoods.org

