A photograph of a forest with large redwood trees and a smaller tree with yellow leaves in the foreground. The scene is set in a snowy environment, with snow on the ground and on the branches of the trees. The redwood trees have thick, reddish-brown bark. The smaller tree in the foreground has bright yellow leaves, contrasting with the green of the other trees and the white snow.

Save the Redwoods League

Fall Bulletin 2002

Mill Creek: A New Beginning

The League's purchase of the 25,000-acre Mill Creek property on June 4, 2002 marked the beginning of a new era. The acquisition of Mill Creek provides complete watershed protection for Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, and forges habitat linkages between Redwood National and State Parks and the inland forests of the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion.

Securing protection of this critical watershed has been a key League objective for more than 70-years. With the assistance of over 11,000 members, many conservation partners, and federal, state and local agencies, this vision has been realized. The California State Department of Parks and Recreation will own and manage Mill Creek to protect and enhance habitat for the fish and wildlife that depend on ancient forests, and to provide compatible public access, research and education.

After more than 50-years of industrial management for timber production, the average tree at Mill Creek is only decades old. As of June 4, 2002, the focus for Mill Creek is the restoration of 25,000-acres of ancient forest, for time immemorial. Because of its size and strategic location, Mill Creek presents an excellent opportunity to develop and test new forest restoration techniques. Unless action is taken, Mill Creek's young homogeneous forest poses a potential fire risk and the prospect of centuries of forest stagnation. Careful management can stimulate and accelerate development of large trees with large branch platforms and a multi-layered forest canopy that support the wildlife and natural processes of the ancient forest.

Educational opportunities at Mill Creek include scientific monitoring and study to ensure that restoration goals

are being met. In addition, environmental educational programs for Del Norte County students are being developed through the local school system to expand understanding of the natural environment and to teach forest land restoration and management skills.



Young forests surrounding the ancient redwoods at Mill Creek will grow to over 300 feet. Photo courtesy of Stephen Corley

The California Department of Parks and Recreation will manage Mill Creek in consultation with an Advisory Committee that will monitor and review restoration and recreational priorities. The Advisory Committee includes representatives of the League, the Department of Fish and Game, the Wildlife Conservation Board, and the California Coastal Conservancy. The Committee will draw on expertise from the many resource professionals and scientific experts who were engaged in developing Interim Management Recommendations for the property — a project led by the League with funding provided by the California Coastal

Conservancy. These recommendations focus on actions necessary in the short-term to protect and enhance the natural resources while allowing compatible public use. The plan is available on the League's web-site.

Mill Creek challenges us all to think on a very broad time-scale. These young forests will be restored, but it will take many, many years. Those involved in the project will not live to see the results of our work — the restoration of thousand-year monarchs at Mill Creek. The purchase of Mill Creek is the beginning of an era of promise that will be realized only with our continued engagement.

Hartsook Inn Greeting Visitors to the Redwoods again

This summer the Hartsook Inn was opened by Save-the-Redwoods League and the California Department of Parks and Recreation to greet travelers to the north coast redwoods. The Inn is located on 33 acres in a beautiful stand of old growth redwoods adjoining Richardson Grove Redwoods State Park in Humboldt County. The Inn had been closed since the League purchased it in 1998 to protect the trees from threatened harvest.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, park aides and volunteers provided information about the redwoods, the League, and what to see and do in the north coast. Many visitors told stories about past times at the Inn. One guest was a descendent of Fred Hartsook - the man who developed the Inn in the 1920's. The information gathered during the summer from the visitors will be invaluable as the League develops a business plan for the long-term future of the Inn.



The lodge at historic Hartsook Inn opened this summer to greet visitors to the redwoods. Photo courtesy Dave Weiman

League Buys Old-Growth Redwoods Murrelets nesting onsite

The League recently purchased an 80-acre forest stand in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Ancient redwoods and Douglas firs blanket the steep slopes and small valleys bordering Girl Scout Creek, a tributary of Butano Creek in San Mateo County near Butano State Park. If a conservation sale was not possible, the former owner was resolved to sell on the open market, exposing the forest to potential timber harvest and development.

As well as expanding protection of the watershed of Butano Creek, it appeared that the forest might be inhabited by the marbled murrelet. The elusive marbled murrelet is a robin-sized, web footed sea bird that nests in specialized conditions found only in old growth forests within 30 miles of the ocean. Murrelets lay single eggs on top of very large branches and are extremely vulnerable to predation from jays and crows. Marbled murrelets are extremely sensitive to loss of habitat particularly since they do not easily relocate their nesting sites. The population of marbled murrelets in the Santa Cruz Mountains is the

smallest and the southernmost group in the United States. The marbled murrelet has been listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act.

This Summer, during marbled murrelet nesting season, researchers, conducting surveys according to a strictly defined protocol, recorded more than 100 detections of birds flying above the grove and observed ten birds below the canopy level. This confirmation of murrelet use for courtship and nesting underscores the importance of protecting this remaining stand of the ancient redwood forest.



The threatened marbled murrelet, a seabird that nests in large branched conifers near the ocean, was seen in the ancient redwoods of the League's latest purchase. Photo courtesy of Tim Zurowski

The League's purchase was made possible in part by a grant and a loan from the California State Coastal Conservancy. The League is seeking contributions to repay the

Coastal Conservancy loan and to cover other acquisition costs totaling \$540,000. The parcel will then be added to Butano State Park for permanent preservation and stewardship.



Larry Ulrich Photography

The Big Trees

Celebrating 150 years of the Giant Sequoia

Neither words nor images can prepare you for your first encounter with a monarch giant sequoia. Imagine 150 years ago, chasing a wounded grizzly bear through the forests of California's Sierra Nevada, and suddenly encountering the shaggy cinnamon-red trunk of a tree so massive that only with outstretched arms could 16 people encircle it. In 1852, in an area now permanently protected as Calaveras Big Trees State Park, A.T. Dowd, a frontiersman and backwoods hunter from Connecticut, abandoned pursuit of the bear and stared upward at the massive column that reached more than 300 feet skyward.

At that time, the "big trees", as the giant sequoias were known, had received little attention beyond the Native Americans who revered the trees.

That soon changed. By 1855, over the objections of early conservationists, two of the finest sequoias in the Calaveras North Grove were destroyed in order to create exhibits. Dowd's Discovery Tree was cut down in 1853. Then, the following year, the bark was stripped off of another tree, the Mother-of-the-Forest, in eight foot sections to a height of 116 feet. The bark sections were later reassembled in order to create a show piece in the Crystal Palace exhibition halls of New York City and London. The shell of the Mother-of-the-Forest made a 20,000-mile journey from the Calaveras Grove through the Port of San Francisco, around Cape Horn to the East Coast and then on to Europe. The naked, burnt remains of this tree can still be seen in Calaveras Grove today. People can also visit the stump of Dowd's "Discovery Tree" whose base is



THE STUMP AND TRUNK OF THE MAMMOTH TREE OF CALAVERAS.
Showing a Cotillion Party of Thirty-two Persons Dancing on the Stump at one time.
PUBLISHED BY J.M. HUTCHINGS, S. FRANCISCO.

Image courtesy of Calaveras County Historical Society

so large that an early "cotillion party of more than thirty-two persons could dance on the stump at one time."

The first published description of giant sequoia was included in the journal of Zenas Leonard, a member of the Walker Party's 1833 exploration and fur-trapping expedition in California. Walker and his men probably passed through the Merced or Tuolumne Grove, now part of Yosemite National Park. It wasn't until Dowd's "discovery" in 1852, however, that the big trees received widespread attention. Calaveras Grove

became one of California's primary tourist attractions, drawing visitors who have continued to come for 150 years to marvel just as Mr. Dowd did.

CREATING SEQUOIA PARKS

By 1890, East Coast and international interest in the giant sequoias led to the creation of the country's second national park, Sequoia National Park, to protect the sequoia groves of the southern Sierra Nevada. In 1890, a broad based campaign was launched at the local, state, and national levels, to save the Calaveras Big Trees from the threat of logging. In spite of a twelve-year campaign to create

a national park to protect the Calaveras Big Trees, the effort failed. In 1926, a second campaign to protect the Calaveras Big Trees was initiated in conjunction with the movement spearheaded by Save-the-Redwoods League and the Sierra Club to establish a state park system to protect the Calaveras Big Trees and other natural areas of great significance. The Calaveras Grove Association was formed to focus local support. Finally, in 1928, the people of California passed the state's first state park bond act, which provided \$6 million in matching dollars to create the California State Park System.

In 1931, the League and the Calaveras Grove Association, with the pivotal support of John D. Rockefeller and Mrs. William H. Crocker, finally secured private funds to match park bond funding, and the State purchased 1951 acres in and around the North Grove of Calaveras Big Trees. The North Grove, a dense 60-acre stand including more than 100 sequoias over five feet in diameter, was the grove Dowd had discovered in 1852. The more remote and larger South Grove was not acquired until 1954 after still another campaign led by the Calaveras Grove Association and Save-the-Redwoods League. The League continues working to secure the protection of Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Our latest acquisition, a one-acre parcel inside the South Grove, will complete comprehensive protection for the area. By 2002 the League had assisted with the acquisition of 2,031 of the Park's 6,500 acres.

THE WINTER MONTHS

Many people visit the giant sequoias during the warm summer months, but few have been privileged to see the silent sequoias draped in cloaks of snow in the depths of winter. Winter can arrive early and linger late in the Sierra. In 1901 John Muir recounted his experience hunting the "big redwoods" as they welcomed the first snow-storm of the year: "...looming up in the dim clouds and snow-drifts like lighthouse towers in flying scud and spray...Every bossy limb and crown is solid white, and the immense heights of the giants become visible as the eye travels the white steps of the colossal tower, each relieved by amass of blue shadow" (*John Muir, Atlantic Monthly, volume 88*)

Whether you strap on snowshoes and head off muffled by warm clothes, or don sandals on a warm summer day, we encourage you to journey to the Sierra and meet these magnificent trees.

Calaveras Big Trees State Park is open year round, although the road to the South Grove is closed during the winter. A gentle one-mile loop trail through the north grove leads the visitor past the site of A.T. Dowd's discovery of the giant sequoias 150-years ago. A guided trail deep into the heart of the wilderness of the South Grove allows for longer exploration.



BATS IN THE BIG TREES

In collaboration with the Yosemite Fund, the League is supporting a study of bats in Yosemite National Park's giant sequoia groves. Tracking bats is no easy business, especially in 200' trees at night! Researchers have used helium balloons, guano traps, radio tracking, acoustic surveys, and mist nets to discover if bats are using the giant sequoia.

They identified fourteen of the seventeen bat species found in the park in the giant sequoia groves. Five species were found reproducing within the groves. Bats were found foraging over nearby creeks and roosting and raising young in tree hollows. Researchers monitoring winter temperatures inside large "goosepens"-hollow fire scars on giant sequoias - concluded that by moderating the extreme winter temperatures the tree hollows are ideal for hibernating bats, allowing them to survive freezing outside temperatures.

Their work was captured on film for the popular BBC series "Vets in the Wild" to be shown on the Discovery Channel starting this fall.

Photo courtesy of Merlin D. Tuttle, Bat Conservation International

Planning for the New Giant Sequoia National Monument

In 2000, President Clinton signed a proclamation creating the Giant Sequoia National Monument to protect the giant sequoia and the natural and scenic beauty of the region. The 327,769-acre monument, located in Sequoia National Forest in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, contains 27 of the world's 73 giant sequoia groves and thousands of acres of associated watersheds and forests.

A management plan for the monument is being developed to protect the giant sequoia groves and restore the ecological processes necessary to sustain a fully functioning ecosystem. After another hot, dry summer with numerous wildfires erupting throughout the west, fire and fuel management is a particularly important and contentious issue.



Fire is a natural disturbance and an essential component in a functioning forest ecosystem. Fire creates ideal conditions for giant sequoia seedlings. In 1875 John Muir described a low-intensity fire in the depths of a giant sequoia forest "creeping and spreading beneath the trees, slowly nibbling the cake of compressed needles and scales with flames an inch high, rising here and there to a foot or two on dry twigs". Only where considerable quantities of fallen limbs had accumulated were the big trees harmed.

This summer, the McNally fire blazed seemingly out of control until it had consumed over 150,000 acres of forest. Fortunately, the giant sequoia groves were spared the full force of the flames. But a century of fire suppression has altered the historic fire regime, and a major conflagration could do significant harm even to the giant sequoia unless proactive steps are taken to reduce fuel loads in the forest.

A key challenge for the management plan for the Giant Sequoia National Monument is reintroduction of a natural fire regime while maintaining the integrity of the groves.

For more information on the Management Plan please contact Sequoia National Forest on (559) 784-12500 or on the web at www.r5.fs.fed.us/giant_sequoia/.

Dillonwood Now Open to Public

Kate Anderton, Executive Director of Save-the-Redwoods League, introduces 10-year old donor Julie Peterson, at the May 30 ceremonies held at Sequoia National Park to recognize the addition of Dillonwood Grove. Julie, who had never before seen a giant sequoia tree, made the trip from her home in Seaside Park, New Jersey to California with her father, John Peterson. Two years ago she sent a \$20 check saved from her allowance to the League, to help with the \$10.3 million campaign to buy Dillonwood Grove, the 1,540-acres containing the largest grove of privately owned sequoias. Save-the-Redwoods League secured \$5 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and



The League's Executive Director, Kate Anderton, Honors Julie Peterson at the celebration of Dillonwood's addition to Sequoia National Park. Photo courtesy of Dave Weiman

\$600,000 from the State of California. Gifts ranging from \$5 to \$1.5 million from League members, benefactors and foundations covered the remainder of the purchase price.

Dillonwood, now part of Sequoia National Park, is open to the public. Access is by foot only. Facilities and services are not yet available. Park rangers spent the summer mapping the property and taking inventory of cultural, vegetation and animal resources so that plans can be made for enhanced access and trails.

For more information on Sequoia National Park, go to www.americanparks.net

BOOK REVIEWS

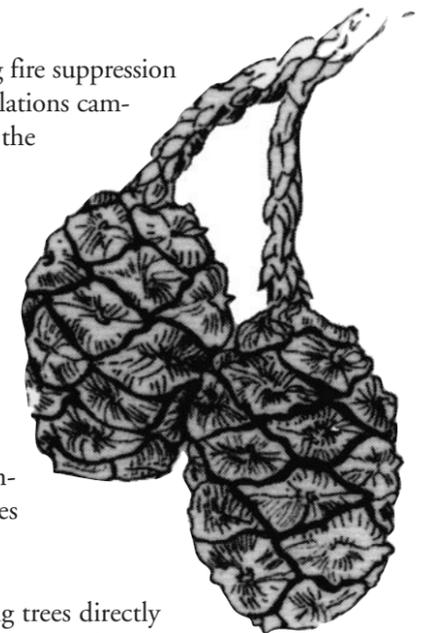
BURNING QUESTIONS BY DAVID CARLE PRAEGER, WESTPORT, CT, 2002. \$26.95

This timely book chronicles the controversies of the last 100 years surrounding fire suppression and the debates over prescribed burning. The impacts of the effective public relations campaign of Smokey Bear begun in 1944 and the historic fires of Yellowstone and the Oakland Hills are detailed. An historical account of the prescribed burning in Calaveras Big Trees State Park pioneered in 1970, is particularly interesting.

FOREST GIANTS OF THE PACIFIC COAST BY ROBERT VAN PELT GLOBAL FOREST SOCIETY WITH UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON PRESS, SEATTLE, 2002. SOFTCOVER: \$35.

The tallest trees on earth are the Coast redwoods, the *sequoia sempervirens*, beautifully featured in this book that surveys 20 known species of the tallest Pacific Coast trees. Each description of 117 champion trees, including location and size, is accompanied by a photograph and drawing. The author identifies "the Calaveras Colossus", a magnificent sugar pine in Calaveras Big Trees State Park, as the largest known sugar pine.

The book is dedicated to Wendell Flint "whose lifetime passion for measuring trees directly provided the template and inspiration for this book", and includes a brief overview of the science of measuring trees.



Memorial Grove

The tranquil solitude and sense of awe that ancient groves inspire attract people from around the world to the redwood forest. Many feel that there is no more fitting monument to honor someone they love and respect than with a gift of these majestic redwoods-memorials that live-to future generations.

The League's Honor and Memorial Grove Program was started in 1921 when the first memorial grove was established to honor of one of the nation's heroes of World War I. Today, nearly 1,000 groves have been established

Grove gifts are used for the purchase of redwood forestland and for the support of other League programs. Donors may direct their gifts to a specific League project if they wish. Grove gifts, which average \$25,000 to \$75,000, may be made in lump sum, over a period of three years, or by bequest. Donors may



Stuart Stevenson Soulé Memorial Grove,
Calaveras Big Trees State Park.
Photo courtesy David Swanlund

select and name their groves. A sign bearing the grove name is placed in most groves.

The ancient redwoods are a window into the deeper reaches of time. With your help, they will continue to survive for generations to come.

For more information, please contact Holly Garrison, the League's Director of Development and Marketing, at (415) 362-2352.

THIS YEAR'S GROVES

- ❖ Big Basin Redwoods State Park
*Patricia M. Woodbury
Memorial Grove*
- ❖ Grove of Old Trees
Golden Wedding Anniversary Grove
- ❖ Harry A. Merlo State
Recreation Area
Wolff Family Grove
- ❖ Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park
Eleanor Vernon Hamilton Grove
- ❖ Limekiln State Park
Paulina June and George Pollak Grove
- ❖ Navarro River Redwoods
State Park
*Ewald-King Grove
Fernandez-McMillen Family Grove
The Neal Family Grove*
- ❖ Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park
*Gwendolyn Winifred De Camp
Memorial Grove*
- ❖ Purisima Creek Redwoods Open
Space Preserve
Merritt Family Grove

HOLIDAY GIFTS

Are you searching for a gift that has special meaning? This holiday, honor a loved one while protecting the redwood forest.

With a gift of \$25 or more, the League will send a beautiful personalized card in honor or in memory of someone you care about. With a gift of \$1,000 or more, you can select an Honor Tree in one of the state park's Honor Groves.

You can also give the gift of membership in the League.

EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS!

We invite our southern California members to mark your calendar's now for the League's receptions for members in the Los Angeles area on March 19 & 20, 2003 (locations to be announced). Our Executive Director and Councillors look forward to meeting you and describing the League's successes and future plans.

INTERESTED IN MAKING A STOCK GIFT?

Stock gifts are a great way to support the League. A gift of appreciated securities may avoid capital gain tax and qualify for an income tax charitable deduction.

For more information, on any of the above call (888) 836-0005 or log on to SaveTheRedwoods.org



To receive our bulletin via email, send your email address to bulletin@savetheredwoods.org

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