



Save The Redwoods
L E A G U E

FALL BULLETIN | 2008

*A New Era of
Conservation Begins*



A LETTER from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director
Ruskin Hartley

WHEN DID YOU LAST STOP AND LISTEN TO THE SOUND OF THE REDWOOD FOREST? STOPPED SPEAKING; QUIETED YOUR COMPANIONS; SLOWED YOUR BREATHING; AND HEARD THE NOISES OF THE FOREST ALL AROUND YOU?

On May 19, I was invited to dedicate Cathedral Grove in Muir Woods National Monument as a permanent place of peace and quiet. In its Centennial Year, the heart of this busy park is being reclaimed from the noise of the visitor and given back to the sounds of the forest. This was the first such dedication in a national park; a deliberate preservation of the natural soundscape. We spent about half an hour in the grove in silence.

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As our voices dropped away, the sounds of the forest came into focus: the song of a winter wren, the hoot of an owl perched overhead, the burble of Redwood Creek splashing down its rocky channel to the ocean, the whoosh of the wind through the forest canopy. These sounds left an impression in my mind that will stay with me long after I forget the speeches and conversations of that day.

This foresighted move by the National Park Service is part of a plan to reclaim sections of this small and much-visited park from the development that has spread into the grove over the years. The goal is to let the visitor experience the redwoods much as John Muir and William Kent did back in 1908 when the canyon was first protected.

The work at Muir Woods — to protect, restore, and connect people with the redwoods — mirrors the League’s work across the range of the redwoods. In this *Bulletin*, you can read about how our science-based Master Plan guides our protection and restoration efforts. The work we do today builds upon the remarkable legacy of the last 90 years and will ensure the redwood forest continues to thrive and inspire all who visit. You can also learn of some of our recent successes in protecting ancient redwood groves, expanding the redwood parks, and working to protect the natural connections that are essential for the parks to be truly sustainable in the long-term.

This work would not be possible without the support and passion of our loyal members and supporters. So next time you are in the forest, please take a moment to listen to the sounds around you. Those memories will sustain you until your next visit.

Updating the League’s Style

Welcome to the new design for our Bulletin. Our goal is to communicate that the League is a contemporary cause and help bring the experience of the redwoods to life. The updated, visually driven layout gives us a fresh, modern look. Add new photography that makes an emotional connection between people and the trees and we start to capture the experience that so many of you have shared with us through your Redwood Memories. We welcome your feedback at membership@savetheredwoods.org



A NEW ERA of REDWOOD CONSERVATION BEGINS

IN 2008, OUR 90th YEAR, SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE IS LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF REDWOOD CONSERVATION BY EXPANDING THE SCALE OF PROTECTION, CREATING NEW PARTNERSHIPS, AND STRENGTHENING THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ALL PEOPLE AND THE REDWOODS. TAKEN TOGETHER, OUR WORK IS FOCUSED ON ENSURING THE ANCIENT REDWOODS CONTINUE TO THRIVE AND INSPIRE ALL WHO VISIT.

Our special anniversary issue of the *Bulletin*, published last spring, focused on our establishment and accomplishments as a leader in effective redwood conservation since the League was established in 1918. These achievements include tremendous progress toward realizing our founders' vision:

The League has assisted in the purchase of more than 180,000 acres; helped create 53 California redwood parks and reserves; increased understanding of the forests through our Research Grants Program; and supported more than 160 redwood education projects for people of all ages.

This *Bulletin* focuses on the work that lies ahead for the League, and what we plan to accomplish in the years ahead. Working with trees that live 2,200 years requires long-term planning and sustained effort. With your generous, ongoing support, we can continue to save the majestic redwoods for all time.

The Master Plan for the Redwoods

Since our establishment, the League has created a world-class system of redwood parks and reserves.

Despite this achievement, many of these parks are

incomplete, and their surrounding landscape is vulnerable to residential development and intensive forestry. Our new Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods guides our efforts to protect and restore redwood forests. This plan identifies and prioritizes redwood landscapes in which a conservation investment will stitch together a quilt of protection anchored in ancient redwoods, protecting and enhancing investments made over the last 90 years.



A science-based conservation strategy, the Master Plan gives the League a solid context in which to evaluate opportunities for conservation, enabling a nimble, well-informed response and showing us where to focus our



The League recently protected imperiled seabirds and ancient trees in this Del Norte County forest. See page 9 for details.

work. The Master Plan also identifies opportunities to collaborate with conservation partners like The Nature Conservancy and local land trusts. Such collaboration allows protection of more land than single organizations could preserve alone. In addition to the Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods, we have started work on the Master Plan for the Giant Sequoias, which is to be complete in 2009. “With the Master Plan in place, we’re even better prepared to make smart, science-based decisions about how and where to invest our members’ resources — and make those decisions quickly,” said Executive Director Ruskin Hartley.

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To create the Master Plan, the League and teams of forest scientists, park rangers, and conservationists worked with local experts to examine the north, central and south zones of the coast redwoods’ natural range.

The Master Plan incorporates principles of conservation

biology. These key principles guide the League to acquire land to protect large blocks of contiguous redwood habitat that capture the diversity of the forest. The plan uses geographic information system (GIS) technology to focus and guide conservation efforts. At its core is a conservation model incorporating 16 factors that identify

areas that are important to protect. Criteria include the amount of ancient forest the land contains, habitat for imperiled species, the number of imperiled species and trails, frontage along scenic corridors, and the risk of commercial and residential development.

Residential development is a growing threat, said Laura Kindsvater, Ph.D., League Conservation Planner. In Sonoma County the population is growing rapidly, she said. Even in those areas where the population growth is not in the double digits, there is demand for second homes,” she said. “That development leads to fragmentation of the forests, which

can threaten the viability of redwood ecosystems. The Master Plan looks at how we can protect landscapes that connect the parks, and how can we work with partners to ensure the viability of these connecting forestlands.”

With less than 5 percent of the ancient redwood forest remaining, the Master Plan also informs efforts to restore old-forest characteristics to second-growth forests.

Priorities

The Master Plan includes the League’s priorities for forest protection and restoration. All land projects must fall under at least one of these three conservation strategies:

- 1. Protect and restore old-growth forest.** Contrary to a common belief, not all ancient redwoods are protected from logging, which is one reason the League still needs your continued and increased support.
- 2. Create viable parks and reserves.**
- 3. Conserve landscapes that connect and buffer redwood parks and reserves.**

In an example of the first strategy, this year the League secured a conservation easement on a 650-acre parcel including more than 140 acres of irreplaceable old-growth redwoods in northwestern California.

A recent example of the second strategy is a project adding to Montgomery Woods State Reserve. Read the related story, “Expanding Montgomery Woods, Public Access,” on page 9.

One of our largest projects is an instance of the League’s third strategy. The Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea links two majestic protected areas: King Range National Conservation Area, a rugged stretch of

California shore, and Humboldt Redwoods State Park, the world’s largest contiguous reserve of ancient redwoods and home to most of the tallest trees. The Corridor project aims to link the parks by working closely with local families to create a wildlife habitat corridor that will sustain the landscape’s beauty and wildness. Since 1999, the League has protected more than 11,000 acres in the Corridor.

Guided by the Master Plan, these projects show the type of work the League plans to accomplish in the years ahead. The Master Plan inspires Kindsvater because it is the founda-

tion of the League’s work — to save the redwoods. “Ultimately, what motivates me is love for the land,” she said. “I care passionately about protecting habitat for California’s native plants and animals and providing a place for people to rejuvenate. The Master Plan is our map and compass to that end.”



Get Involved

Visit our special 90th anniversary page, savetheredwoods.org/90, to download and share more inspiring redwood photos.

Learn more about redwoods and why preserving them is so important. Visit our expanded events calendar at savetheredwoods.org.

High-Tech Discovery to Aid Forest Recovery

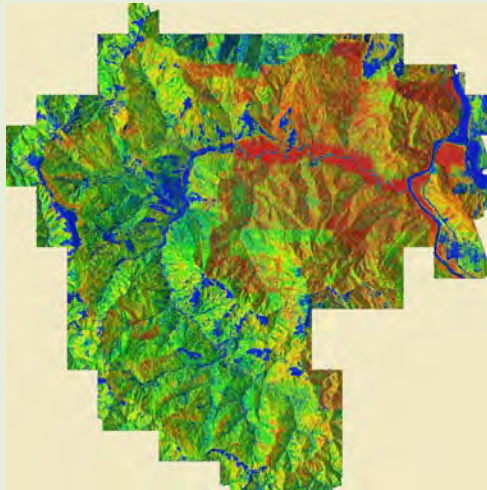
A new technology, funded in part by your Save the Redwoods League donations, is revealing information that will improve the League's ability to prioritize forest restoration and erosion control at Mill Creek, a 25,000-acre redwood forest that is now part of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park. The new remote sensing technology, Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR), involves firing a laser beam from a plane and recording the reflection to measure the height of trees and the ground. LiDAR is accurate within half a meter, compared to the error range of 30 meters in traditional techniques.

Mill Creek, formerly a logging site, was chosen for LiDAR mapping because programs are under way to restore its old-growth characteristics. LiDAR data will be used to target forest restoration work, identify roads to remove, pinpoint streams and drainages, and monitor how the forest changes over time — including assessing how much carbon the young forest is storing as it grows.

“The early results are very exciting, because the measurements confirm what we have suspected for some time — that these forests are incredibly complex, in terms of the underlying terrain, the forest canopy and

everything in between,” said Dan Porter, the League's Director of Science and Planning.

Knowing the locations of streams is important to predict where salmon-threatening landslides may occur. Landslides stemming from old logging roads threaten endangered coho salmon by fouling their streams with sediment. Saving salmon by removing landslide threats



Preliminary LiDAR data was used to produce this image of the forest canopy in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. This map shows tree heights. Red is tall, blue is short.

saves redwoods and their interdependent communities, because the living and dead fish are important nutrient sources for plants and animals. The data will also pinpoint areas of young, dense forest where restoration will encourage the development of complex old forest characteristics over time.

The LiDAR project was made possible in part by a generous contribution from philanthropist and big tree enthusiast Ken Fisher of Fisher Investments.

Image: Bill Kruse

What Inspires the Inspired to Save Redwoods?

“The same things that inspired one of my favorite authors, John Steinbeck, who describes redwoods as evoking silence and awe.”

Pete Dangermond, Vice President of the League's Board of Directors and chair of its Master Planning Task Force

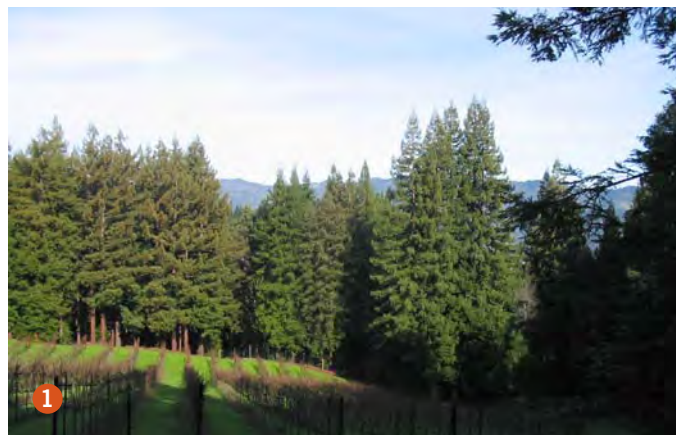


DEALS SAVE REDWOODS on PICTURESQUE LANDSCAPES

WITH YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT, SAVE THE REDWOODS LEAGUE MOVED FORWARD BY PROTECTING SEVERAL KEY CALIFORNIA PARCELS THAT PRESERVE OLD-GROWTH REDWOODS, PROMOTE VIABLE PARKS, AND MAINTAIN CONNECTING LANDSCAPES, ACCORDING TO OUR MASTER PLAN FOR THE REDWOODS.



- 1 Bothe-Napa Valley State Park
- 2 Montgomery Woods State Reserve
- 3 Mendocino County Property
- 4 Del Norte County Property



Preparing for Climate Change

Some of the last remaining unprotected old-growth redwoods in Napa County are now safe, thanks to the League's work to protect 113 acres including forested open space adjacent to Bothe-Napa Valley State Park. In the face of global climate change, redwoods in this area are important to preserve because they are genetically adapted to drier and warmer conditions. Of the total 113-acre project area, 51 acres of the more heavily forested sections were acquired by the League for future transfer to the park. A conservation easement on 62 of the acres was transferred to The Land Trust of Napa County for permanent monitoring. This project was made possible with generous funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, the California Coastal Conservancy and League donors.

What Is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and the League that permanently limits uses of the land to protect its conservation values. It allows the landowner to continue to own and use the land and to sell it or pass it on to heirs. In acquiring the easement, the League agrees to monitor it forever to ensure compliance with its terms. These agreements are among the tools the League uses to save redwoods.



Photo: Evan Johnson

protecting the Montgomery Woods area. The Reserve includes one of the world's tallest trees and shelters one of the few remaining stands of ancient redwoods in the redwoods' central region.

The more than \$400,000 secured in the campaign, when combined with funds from the Preserving Wild California program of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation, California Coastal Conservancy, California State Parks, and the California Wildlife Conservation Board, enables us to purchase land in need of protection adjoining the Reserve.

Expanding Montgomery Woods, Public Access

Thanks to generous donations from our individual supporters, the League reached a December 31, 2007, campaign goal of matching a \$200,000 challenge grant to support an expansion of Montgomery Woods State Reserve in Mendocino County. Since 1919 the League has been a partner in

In another project at the Reserve, the League is embarking on a creative partnership with California State Parks to enhance public access so that more visitors can experience this inspiring grove. The League will contribute funding for interpretive signs, improvements of the old-growth trail, and construction of another trail on land the League recently transferred to the Reserve.



Protecting Magnificent Coastline

Old and young redwoods, grassy bluffs and more than 1½ miles of stunning Pacific Ocean coastline are highlights of a 401-acre Mendocino County property the League has acquired. In a new type of partnership for the League, the Coastal Land Trust will manage the maintenance and collaborate in the planning and development of public access and educational opportunities on the property. The League is exploring exciting new alternatives for long-term stewardship that may include California State Parks and other partners.



Photo: Tom Hamer

Saving Ancient Trees, Imperiled Seabirds

Two League conservation easements in Del Norte County on industrial timberland now protect some of the best remaining privately owned old-growth forest habitat for marbled murrelets in northern California. The murrelets, a species of seabird, need old-growth trees' large branches for nest platforms. The conservation easements, totaling 1,047 acres, include 219 acres of old-growth forest buffered by 828 acres of younger forest. As the surrounding young forest grows, it will act as a buffer, further protecting the irreplaceable old-growth redwoods.

A Commitment as Great as the Redwoods

Debra and Rich Whitall fell for the redwoods — and each other — as students at Humboldt State University in Arcata, California. They love redwoods so much that Debra changed her major to forest hydrology so she could help protect the forests, and Rich worked his way through college as a forest firefighter throughout the redwoods' range. They were even married in a redwood grove before they graduated in 1984. Fifteen years later, they showed their commitment to the redwoods again, by including Save the Redwoods League in their estate plan.

“It just made sense to start considering who is really doing the kind of long-term work that we value,” said Rich, referring to their estate beneficiaries.



Debra and Rich Whitall made a commitment to include the League in their estate plan.

“The ancient groves are such a powerful reminder that we humans have a huge responsibility to honor and preserve the remaining wild places,” said Debra, a social scientist with the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, DC.

For information on including the League in your estate plan, visit savetheredwoods.org/development/planned-giving.shtml, or contact Suzanne Ritchie, Director of Major and Planned Gifts, at (888) 836-0005 or sritchie@savetheredwoods.org.

Your Membership Matters 2009 Annual Renewal

Thank you for your continued membership in Save the Redwoods League — your contributions are vital for our work to protect the trees we all love. We know there are many nonprofit organizations deserving of your financial support, and we hope that you will continue to support the League's programs by renewing your membership when your renewal notice arrives this fall. Please renew early; you'll help us save paper and a few trees.

You're Invited!

San Francisco Membership Reception: November, 2008. Date, time and location to be determined. Visit savetheredwoods.org/events soon for more information.

Southern California Membership Reception: Sunday, March 22, 2009 at The Huntington Library in San Marino. Visit savetheredwoods.org/events for details.

Redwood Groves Dedicated between June 15, 2007 and June 14, 2008

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Henigson Family Grove
Philip Lamson Memorial Grove

Limekiln State Park

In Honor of the Tucker and Dobson Families

Navarro River Redwoods State Park

The Shirley & Farrel Schell Family Grove

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

The Illés/Rozsa Csalad Grove

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

The Doreen & Meyer Luskin Grove
Elliot's Grove

Wilder Ranch State Park

Michel Frederic Willey Memorial Grove

Redwood Memories

I remember the incredible quietness of the trees. When I first walked into the forest of giants, nothing seemed to move, not even time itself.

— Lydia, member since 1993

I love our California coast, the coastal hills and the Sierra Nevada. However, an old-growth redwood forest is a special and spiritual place that continues to nurture my body, mind and soul.

— Gary, member since 2005

Give the Gift of Redwoods this Holiday Season

PLANT A REDWOOD SEEDLING. Truly the gift that keeps on giving — for a donation of \$50 or more, the League will honor or memorialize a loved one by having a redwood seedling planted in one of California’s redwood parks. We also will send a beautiful commemorative card to the specified beneficiary or their family.

You also may choose to honor or memorialize someone with the dedication of a grove or tree in one of our specified groves. For more information on dedicating an honor/memorial tree or grove, please visit us at savetheredwoods.org/development, or call Megan Ferreira at (888) 836-0005, extension 309.

How to Donate Stocks

Before you transfer your stocks to us, please be sure to tell us what kind of stocks you are donating and what your gift is for, such as land acquisition. E-mail membership@savetheredwoods.org or call (888) 836-0005, extension 317. Thank you for your support.

Share Your Memories of Favorite Redwood Parks

Thank you to all Save the Redwoods League members who recently shared their favorite memories of enjoying the redwoods and ancient forests. Contributions from members like you have made possible experiences like those on this page. To share your memories, please e-mail them with “Redwood Memory” in the subject line to memories@savetheredwoods.org

We are especially interested in your favorite memories of redwood parks. Please include your full name in the e-mail. We may want to share your memories in a League publication. If you would prefer that we not share your story, please let us know in the e-mail.

Use this space to tell us about your favorite redwood park, then send it in the enclosed envelope.

We may publish your story on our Web site or in a future League publication — just check the authorization box below. Thank you.

I authorize Save the Redwoods League to publish my memory of my favorite redwood park.

PARK NAME

YOUR NAME (FIRST & LAST)

Photos: Caroline Johnson



Families in the League-supported YES camp program show off their redwood art projects.

Families Bond, Learn Among the Redwoods

Ricardo had never been able to spend an entire weekend with his children, ages 8 and 5, until last April, when, with your support, he and other inner-city families learned about redwoods at a California camp in the forest.

Thanks to our donors, Save the Redwoods League's Education Grants Program made two such weekends possible for 170 inner-city children and adults from Richmond, California. The League awarded the grant to Youth Enrichment Strategies (YES) of Richmond, which runs weekend family camps to enrich inner-city families' lives.

The League's Education Grants Program fosters redwood stewardship by enabling a broad audience to deepen their understanding of redwood forests through personal visits and educational experiences. YES highlighted redwoods last spring.

"I can't describe how good it feels to hold my daughter's hand and walk through the redwoods with her," Ricardo said. "This is a beautiful place and I want to thank everyone for making this possible."

Photo: James Emerson



Kids Feel Redwood Magic Close to Home

More K-5 children will experience redwoods in their hometown with the help of a grant from Save the Redwoods League's Education Program. The League marked its 90th anniversary on April 8, 2008, by granting \$10,000 to the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society. The grant will allow 2,500 schoolchildren, most from underserved neighborhoods in San Francisco, to take guided walks in the Garden's Redwood Grove. In the grove, the children can see an extraordinary coast redwood that the League planted on April 8; the tree is related to a seed that orbited the moon in 1971.

Michael McKechnie, (left) Executive Director of San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, accepts a grant from Ruskin Hartley to support children's programs.

To receive e-mail updates about our work, send your e-mail address to membership@savetheredwoods.org

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