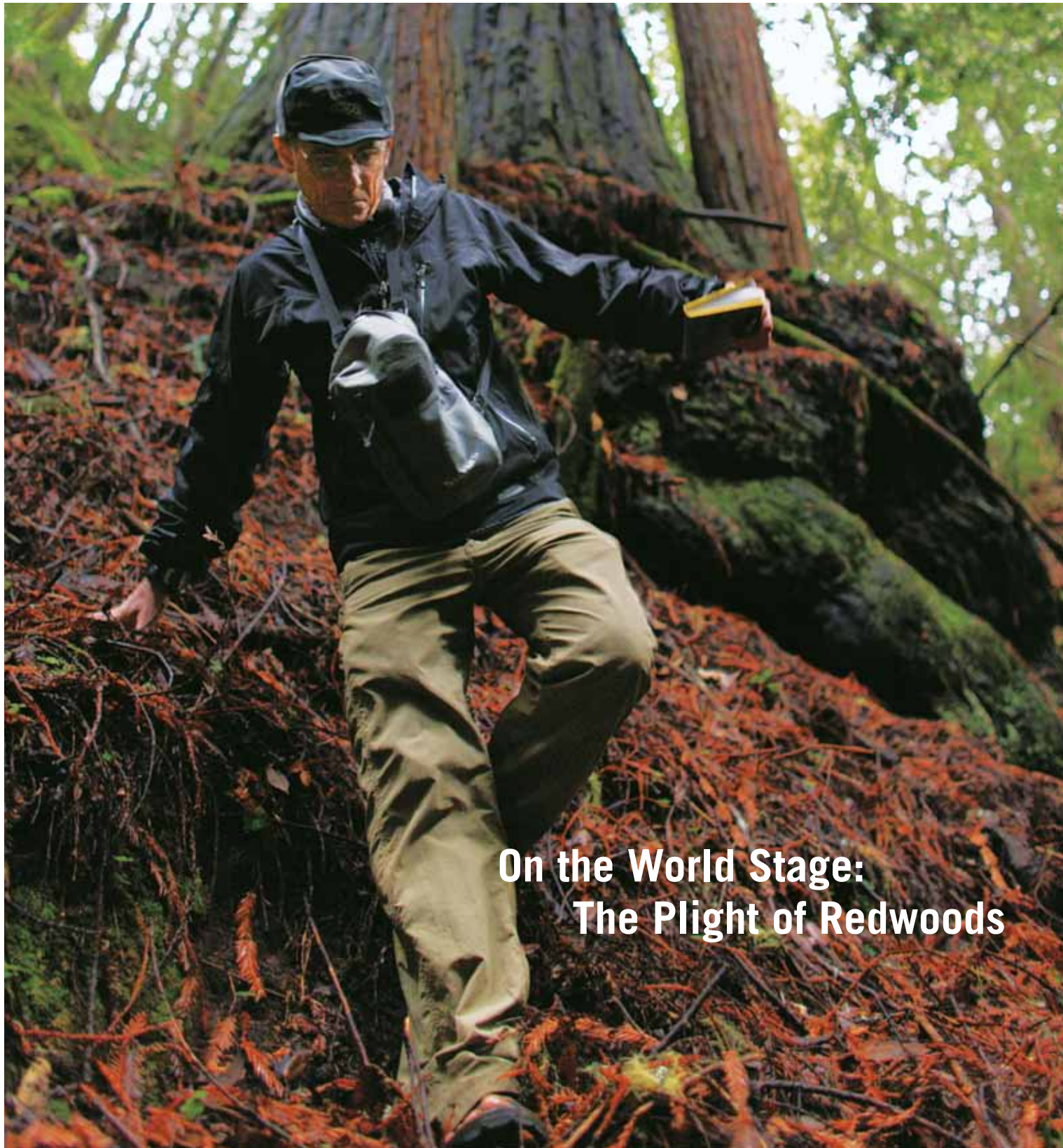




Save The Redwoods
LEAGUE®

Fall Bulletin '09



**On the World Stage:
The Plight of Redwoods**



Photo: Julie Martin

Cover Photo: J. Michael (Mike) Fay, Wildlife Conservation Society Senior Conservationist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, explores the redwood forest in an unprecedented study to which Save the Redwoods League contributed. Learn more on page 4. (Cover photo: ©2009 Michael Christopher Brown/ National Geographic)

Left Photo: Coast redwoods rise skyward in Big Basin Redwoods State Park, in which the League has protected more than 1,900 acres. The park is in the southern range of the coast redwoods, where Mike Fay began his study that is featured on page 4.

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Photo: Paolo Vescia



Dear Save the Redwoods League Friends,

My family and I consider ourselves fortunate to live in California near the redwoods. If I weren't in my line of work, which takes me to the redwoods frequently, I would still visit these natural wonders often. But many people take the redwoods for granted; they are not aware of the overharvesting during the last 150 years that has left less than 5 percent of the original coast redwood forest standing. That lack of awareness is about to be reduced on a grand scale, thanks to Save the Redwoods League and our longtime partners, the National Geographic Society and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

In September and October 2009, 100 million people worldwide are projected to learn about redwoods from the Wildlife Conservation Society and the National Geographic Society, which will tell the story of an unprecedented redwoods study. The League contributed to this study, The Redwood Transect, which you can read about on page 4. We anticipate National Geographic's coverage to inspire many others to help save the redwoods, as you, our members, have. This coverage comes when the redwoods need your support more than ever: These challenging economic times have threatened California state parks, including redwood sanctuaries you have helped to create. As always, we work on your behalf to help keep parks viable.

Enjoy reading this special *Bulletin* about the historic Redwood Transect, our other work and projects that need your support. With your continued contributions, we can sustain the redwoods for generations to come.

Ruskin K. Hartley Executive Director

Inspiration



Photo: ©2009 Michael Christopher Brown/National Geographic

On the World Stage: The Plight of Redwoods

Awareness of the threats to redwood forests is expected to reach new heights in September and October 2009, when more than 100 million people

worldwide are projected to learn about redwoods from the National Geographic Society (NGS), a longtime partner of Save the Redwoods League.



The October issue of *National Geographic* magazine and National Geographic Channel's *EXPLORER* will tell the story of an unprecedented redwoods study to which the League contributed.

“I don’t think that these trees fail to impress anyone. They are a reminder of the great abundance of nature.”

— Mike Fay, Wildlife Conservation Society
Senior Conservationist and National Geographic
Explorer-in-Residence



Part of NGS' Preserve Our Planet initiative, the special episode of the signature series *EXPLORER: Climbing Redwood Giants*, will air in late September.

The leader of the redwoods study is Wildlife Conservation Society Senior Conservationist and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence J. Michael (Mike) Fay. After exploring the dense forests of Central Africa, Fay decided to focus public attention on the natural wonders in California, where he spent time as a boy. His mission: spotlighting the redwoods to ignite a dialogue about the best ways to manage these precious natural resources. The feature story for the magazine was photographed by renowned National Geographic photographer Michael "Nick" Nichols, a longtime collaborator with Fay.

The *National Geographic* article by Joel Bourne and companion essay by Mike Fay will be the magazine's first redwoods cover story since 1964, although the magazine has published many features and updates on the trees since then.

Fay hopes the upcoming NGS coverage of redwoods' exploitation will inspire changes in how forests are used globally.

Left Photo: Jim C. Spickler, Forest Canopy Scientist and Rope Access Specialist, sets up ropes for National Geographic's redwood coverage.

Photo: ©2009 Michael Nichols/National Geographic

Photos on pages 4-5, 7-9: Mike Fay walked nearly 1,800 miles, more than the entire length of the coast redwoods range, to study the forest. He hopes his study of the trees' exploitation will inspire changes in how forests are used worldwide. After 150 years of logging and real-estate development, less than 5 percent of the ancient coast redwood forest remains.

Through this study, called "The Redwood Transect," the National Geographic Society, the Wildlife Conservation Society and Save the Redwoods League will continue to raise awareness and inspire the public to support conservation efforts for the redwoods. These forests face threats from real-estate development, logging and global climate change, among others.

Fay said, "More importantly, the transect demonstrates that with wise management, people can improve the state of the natural legacy of the redwoods, augment their productivity, and deliver not only more lumber but also clean air, water and soil."

The National Geographic Society has a long history of advocating for protection of the redwoods, including providing funding that was instrumental in charting boundaries for Redwood National Park in 1963, outreach to Congress in 1977 to



Photo: © 2009 Michael Christopher Brown/National Geographic

expand the existing park, and mobilization of donations to adopt a grove of trees in 1981.

The Redwood Transect is the latest project among organizations whose collaboration began more than 90 years ago. In 1918, leaders from the Wildlife Conservation Society and National Geographic Society joined with other noted conservationists to start the movement to save the coast redwoods by founding Save the Redwoods League.

Since 1918, with our members' and partners' support, the

League has protected more than 181,000 acres of redwood forests and associated land. The League also has connected people with the redwoods' inspiring peace and beauty by helping to develop 59 redwood parks and reserves for all to enjoy.

A Long Walk in the Forest

From September 2007 to August 2008, Fay walked nearly 1,800 miles, more than the entire length of the coast redwoods range, from the southernmost tree in Big Sur to the northernmost tree in southern Oregon. The

Give the Gift of Redwoods This Holiday Season

Give the gift of membership in Save the Redwoods League; have a redwood seedling planted in a California redwood park; or dedicate a redwood tree or grove to a loved one. Visit savetheredwoods.org/give or call us at (888) 836-0005.



Photo: © 2009 Michael Christopher Brown/National Geographic

Inspiration

League helped provide Fay and independent researcher Lindsey Holm with resources to find their way. On their trek, they collected data critical to understanding the ecology, history and current state of the redwood forest.

“Every step of the way, we made observations on trees, their size and density, wildlife, human activities, streams,” said the bespectacled Fay, a slim and strong man known for his passion and intrepidity. “At every opportunity, we talked to people about redwood trees and what they think about the 21st century and the future of resource management.”

The goal of the transect project is to highlight the status of the California redwoods, the challenges managers of these trees face, and solutions to ensuring the trees survive, said NGS’ Terry Garcia, Executive Vice President for Mission Programs.

“The television program (*EXPLORER*) and two articles in *National Geographic* magazine will lay out these topics in an engaging way that I’m pretty certain will inspire people to save the redwoods.”

Garcia oversees NGS’ Explorers-in-Residence program, and therefore Fay and The Redwood

Transect project. In addition, Garcia is a member of the League’s Board of Councillors, or volunteer advisors. (See his profile on page 16.)

“When people come to the National Geographic Web site after seeing the show or reading about it in the magazine, and they want to learn or do more, they may click on the link to the League’s site,” Garcia said. “We estimate that on a monthly basis, some 40 million people read the magazine. Hopefully, some very large segment of that reading population is going to find the story of interest and want to learn more.”



Photo: Julie Martin

Get Involved

Learn more about NGS’ Redwood Transect Project and share your redwood memories and thoughts in our new online forum; visit savetheredwoods.org/redwoodtransect after September 15, 2009.



Photo: ©2009 Michael Christopher Brown/National Geographic

“In this 21st century, is it possible to satisfy the needs of commerce and reverse the worldwide trend of forest liquidation? California has taken the lead in protecting the environment from greenhouse gases, and it can take the lead in protecting redwoods as well.”

— Mike Fay, Explorer and Conservationist

This population around the globe will learn what most people don't know—what's happening today among these redwood trees, Garcia said. It was Fay's idea to reinvigorate an historic partnership among NGS, the League and the Wildlife Conservation Society to support

and advance The Redwood Transect. Ultimately Fay hopes to challenge people to develop sustainable ways to use and appreciate America's redwoods. Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director of Save the Redwoods League, said The Redwood Transect offers new hope.

“We hope this expedition will inspire a new generation of conservationists to explore the unique redwood forests and experience their beauty today, tomorrow and in the future,” Hartley said.

As for current League members, Garcia said he hopes they will read the articles, see the show and help continue to save redwoods. 🌲

Learn the five ways you can help save the redwoods; visit savetheredwoods.org/help.



Photo: Dale Vance

A New TV Show About Redwoods

Coinciding with *National Geographic* magazine's October 2009 cover article and the evocative photos by Michael (Nick) Nichols, National Geographic Channel's signature series *EXPLORER* will air a special episode in late September called *EXPLORER: Climbing Redwood Giants*. Part of NGS' Preserve Our Planet initiative, the program will highlight the state of the redwood forest, new discoveries in the canopy by a Save the Redwoods League grantee and stunning new

animations of the redwoods and the forest based on League data.

The show also will give people a sense of how it feels to be in a redwood forest, said John Rubin (pictured, in red), who produced the film with James Donald.

"When I step into a redwood grove, I find myself whispering," Rubin said. "It happens automatically, because I am awestruck. I feel as if I stepped into a cathedral. These are

The TV show, EXPLORER: Climbing Redwood Giants, will follow two pioneering forest explorers, said co-producer John Rubin (pictured, in red).

awesome living things. I wanted to do my best to convey that feeling." The film follows two explorers who are studying the redwoods in different ways: It follows Fay horizontally as he travels the entire length of the redwood range on foot, and redwoods researcher Stephen (Steve) Sillett vertically as he explores



Photo: Julie Martin

Make Tax-Free Gifts from Your IRA

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, you can make a gift to Save the Redwoods League until **December 31, 2009**, by transferring any amount up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to us without paying taxes on your distributions or generating a deduction. Call Sharon Waisman at (888) 836-0005 to learn more.

the redwoods from ground to crown. Sillett, a recipient of League research grants, and Kenneth L. Fisher Chair in Redwood Forest Ecology at Humboldt State University, is conducting a pioneering study of the redwood canopy, one of the last unexplored frontiers on Earth.

In the study, Rubin and Sillett used data from the League's Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) project. LiDAR involves firing a laser beam from a plane and recording the reflection to measure the height of the trees and the ground. The technology, much more accurate than traditional measurement techniques, is improving the League's ability to determine the number and size of redwoods and prioritize forest restoration.

"We used LiDAR data not just to understand the forest, but also to look for new tall trees for Steve to climb and confirm the measurement," Rubin said.

"We found a redwood that was head and shoulders above all its neighbors in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, a park that Steve thought he knew like his own backyard," Rubin said. "The question is, 'Might

this be the tallest redwood tree ever?' Watch the show for the answer."

The League and consultant Bill Kruse helped Rubin interpret the LiDAR data to produce stunning animations of the redwoods and the forest. Making the film wasn't easy.

"You can't even see the top of the trees from the ground," Rubin said. "The challenge was to get up there and get a feeling of what it looks like high up, a view that an ordinary hiker can't get. So we worked very closely with Steve and a great team of climbers. We developed a brand-new cable dolly system. A platform moves along a 300-foot cable and carries a camera controlled by radio signals."

For Rubin, overcoming the challenges paid off. "I came away with a sense of optimism about the future of redwoods, learning what I did from Steve Sillett and Mike Fay," Rubin said. 🌲

For EXPLORER: Climbing Redwood Giants air dates and times, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/redwoods after September 15, 2009.

Photo Below: Michael Nichols ascends to the redwood canopy. He produced photographs for National Geographic magazine's October 2009 redwood coverage.



Photo: ©2009 Stephen Sillett/National Geographic

Save Redwoods for the Future

Your bequest or other planned gift for Save the Redwoods League will help ensure the future of redwood forests and has several tax advantages. When you make such a gift, we'll enroll you in the Redwood Legacy Circle and honor you in several ways. For more information, contact Sharon Waisman at (888) 836-0005, or swaisman@savetheredwoods.org.

Protection

Protected, Thanks to Our Members

PROPERTY: 1

1 CORRIDOR PROPERTY GAINS 361 ACRES

Thanks to our members' and partners' support, Save the Redwoods League completed another land transfer in March 2009, enlarging the League's Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea, a strip of wildlife habitat linking the King Range National Recreation Area on the coast and Humboldt Redwoods State Park inland. The transfer to the US Bureau of Land Management expands the Corridor by 361 acres, including watersheds that harbor endangered salmon. Purchased years ago as part of a larger package, the land was valued at \$850,000 when it was transferred.



High-Priority Projects Need Your Support

Help Us Save These Redwood Forestlands

PROPERTIES: 2,3,4 and 5

Save the Redwoods League is working to purchase these parcels of redwood forestland in urgent need of protection according to our science-based Master Plan. We need your help—we cannot save these redwoods without your support. The League has raised \$3 million toward the purchase price of these key properties; we must raise an additional \$650,000 to protect the land in perpetuity.

Please visit savetheredwoods.org/donate and choose “Land Acquisition” in the Gift Designation menu, or send your gift in the attached envelope.

2 REDWOOD CREEK PROPERTY—115 ACRES

Adjacent to Lacks Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Lacks Creek) and 4.25 miles from Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP)

Why It's a Priority to Save

Will increase protection of Redwood Creek watershed's native fish populations, ancient redwoods in Lacks Creek and RNSP and threatened plant and animal species including the marbled murrelet and spotted owl.

3 SONOMA PROPERTY—40 ACRES

Adjacent to Lake Sonoma Recreation Area

Why It's a Priority to Save

Contains stand of redwoods estimated to be 200 years old. This subregion has very little old-growth redwood forest remaining. Property can be reached on hiking trail and by boat on Lake Sonoma.

4 LOS PADRES PROPERTY—80 ACRES

Los Padres National Forest

Why It's a Priority to Save

Inholding contains watershed and old-growth redwood forest in southern extent of redwood range that may carry unique genes. Home to many threatened and endangered species, including spotted owl, California red-legged frog and peregrine falcon.

5 BIG RIVER PROPERTY—200 ACRES

Adjacent to Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve

Why It's a Priority to Save

Will increase protection of Big River watershed at its headwaters, including one of its salmonid-bearing tributaries. Will also buffer ancient redwoods in adjacent Reserve.



Photo: Paolo Vescia

Dedicating a redwood tree or grove helps save the forest and establishes a special place for you, your honoree and your loved ones to enjoy.

Redwood Groves Dedicated between June 15, 2008, and June 14, 2009

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

Harry H. LaMar Memorial Grove

Humboldt Redwoods State Park

Dr. and Mrs. Kurt Munchheimer Memorial Grove
Joseph and Margaret Hipp Memorial Grove

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Joseph and Margaret Hipp Memorial Grove

Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park

The Mayme U. Bangert Memorial Grove

Navarro River Redwoods State Park

The Phillips Family Grove
Tony Husch Grove

Portola Redwoods State Park

Herbert and Ethel MacNeal Memorial Grove
The John and Diane Geer Grove
Ruth Krag Speraw Memorial Grove
Lazlo and Irene Jelenfy Memorial Grove
Clifford and Gudrun Osmundson Family Grove

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Sanborn Hawley Grove
Young Family Grove
Hummel Family and Friends Grove

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Harold and Nina Osborne Memorial Grove
Robert Stanley Parker Memorial Grove

Redwood National Park

Thomas J. Nerger Grove
H.P. Nerger Memorial Grove

Wilder Ranch State Park

Viola Galton Memorial Grove

Dedicate a Redwood Tree or Grove

Help ensure that the forest's grandeur will continue to inspire future generations. Contributions for dedications support our work to save redwoods while designating a special place for honorees and their loved ones to enjoy. For more information, visit savetheredwoods.org/dedicate or call Megan Ferreira at (888) 836-0005.

Education

Growing Redwood Stewards



“Fresh air, nature, adventure, green, fun!” are words student Dodd Liang used to describe his experience learning about and helping to restore a redwood forest, thanks to a grant from Save the Redwoods League’s Education Grants Program. Liang, a junior at Skyline High School in Oakland, California, participated in the Redwood Eco-Stewards Project, run by EarthTeam Environmental Network for Educators and Teens. The League recently awarded a second \$5,000 grant to EarthTeam to support this project. EarthTeam organizes this project to teach underserved high school students about the human and natural history of redwoods in their region

Oakland, California, high school students learn about redwood forests in a League-supported program.

and connect them to redwood groves in their own communities through hands-on restoration projects. While the students learn, they also reduce the impacts of storms on the Sausal Creek redwoods restoration area by preserving the topsoil and providing habitat for a native redwood understory community. The project culminates with a day trip to the ancient redwoods in nearby Muir Woods National Monument.

Fifty students in two Skyline High School environmental science classes participated in the project. Kevin Sherrill,

EarthTeam’s Restoration Program Director, taught the students about redwood ecology and restoration ecology in two classroom presentations before each fieldwork day.

On the first field day, each class built and placed erosion control materials. “We also went over native and non-native plant identification to help us remove invasive species at the site,” Sherrill said.

On the second field day, students planted more than 485 native plants. The Friends of Sausal Creek, a partner in the project, discussed plant propagation, seed collecting and planting techniques.

For Skyline student David Haynes, the restoration effort paid off. “I feel that I improved the health of my local environment and I made a difference in my community.”

Save the Redwoods League members’ generous and vital gifts support this project and others to foster the next generation of redwood stewards. Thank you for your support. ♻️

Community

Continuing a 91-Year Partnership



Photo: ©2009 Mark Thiessen, National Geographic

“It’s hard not to be inspired when you go into one of these forests. They call them cathedrals for a reason.”

— Terry Garcia, League Councillor since 2000

Terry Garcia is the main liaison between the League and the National Geographic Society. He oversees NGS’ research, conservation and exploration programs, including The Redwood Transect project featured on page 4.

Terry Garcia has traveled extensively around the world, but one of his most cherished places—the redwood forest—is in California, where he once lived. Garcia is a member of Save the Redwoods League’s Board of Councillors, or volunteer advisors, and is the National Geographic Society’s Executive Vice President for Mission Programs. He is the main liaison between the League and the National Geographic Society (NGS), one of the organizations that helped to establish the League in 1918.

Garcia’s connection to the redwoods stems from his days serving the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere. He was one of the two negotiators for the US government in the acquisition of the Headwaters Forest, 7,472 acres of land 6 miles southeast of Eureka, California. Now a federal reserve, it was set aside to protect and preserve

the ecology and wildlife in the area, particularly the stands of ancient redwoods that provide habitat for the threatened marbled murrelet, and the streams that harbor threatened coho salmon.

“For several years, I was in the thick of the very difficult and at times contentious negotiations for the acquisition of the Headwaters land,” Garcia recalled. “It was very frustrating at times, and I think what kept all of us going was the knowledge that we were dealing with, in some cases, trees that were 2,000 years old—trees that were here when the Roman legions were marching on Earth. And we had been given the responsibility of ensuring that what remained of this last private stand of redwoods was saved forever. We eventually were successful.”

“It’s hard not to be inspired when you go into one of these forests,” Garcia said. “They call them cathedrals for a reason.” ♣



5 Ways You Can Help Save Redwoods

DONATE

to Save the Redwoods League.

PLAN

an estate gift for Save the Redwoods League.

TALK

to your friends about the League's work.

VISIT

the redwood forest with friends and family.

EXPLORE

volunteer opportunities in redwood parks.

To learn more, visit savetheredwoods.org/help or call us at (888) 836-0005.

New on savetheredwoods.org

Send new, free redwoods e-cards for holidays, birthdays, celebrations and “just because.” Have a Web site or Facebook page? Post our widget to show you love redwoods. See the entries in our online photo contest. And be sure to visit our new Google map and calendar of redwoods activities. Visit savetheredwoods.org/community.

Your Membership Matters: 2010 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 hope that you will continue to support the League's programs by renewing your membership when your renewal notice arrives in the mail this fall. You also may renew your membership at savetheredwoods.org/give.



Onto the Trail

Redwood Regional Park, Oakland, California

“My favorite redwood memory is of hiking at Redwood Regional Park with the fog rolling through the redwood trees.”

—Robert, member since 2000





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