

CREATE A REDWOOD LEGACY...JOIN THE REDWOOD LEADERSHIP SOCIETY

The Redwood Leadership Society is Save-the-Redwoods League's premier circle of individual supporters who contribute annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, providing the financial foundation for the League's essential programs.

Your Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
Credit Card #: _____

I would like to make a gift to help save the redwoods!

- Titan Circle \$10,000-\$19,999
- Cathedral Circle \$5,000-\$9,999
- Crown Circle \$2,500-\$4,999
- Canopy Circle \$1,000-\$2,499

Your membership involvement is a crucial element in our successful protection of the ancient forest. Thank you.

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

Honor and memorial gifts can be made through the Save-the-Redwoods League. When you make a memorial or honor gift of \$50 or more, the League sends an attractive acknowledgment with a beautiful photograph to the individual or family that is honored.

The League also offers an Honor Tree program whereby an individual tree in one of the four Honor Groves can be named for a donation of \$1,000 to \$10,000. Honor groves are located in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Portola Redwoods State Park, Butano State Park and Wilder Ranch State Park. A commemorative certificate is issued to the honoree or family and the name is added to the Honor Grove map.

THE LEAGUE'S MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Early each year, we will be sending you a letter asking you to make your annual membership gift to the League. Many of you have received this in the last few months. As the year progresses, we hope that you will also consider making a special gift to one of the League's land acquisition projects.

We deeply appreciate your support in protecting our ancient forests. We welcome any comments or questions you might have. Please call us at (415) 362-2352. Thank you!

LET US KNOW

Throughout the year, the League sends several mailings to keep you up-to-date on our work to protect the redwood forest.

In the Spring and Fall, members receive Bulletins. In Summer and Winter we send updates on land purchase projects describing opportunities you may choose to support with your contributions. Beginning this year, we are sending a separate request in the Spring, asking you to renew your membership in the League. Your annual membership gift provides critical support for the League's operation throughout the year.

If, at any time, you would prefer not to receive one or more of these mailing, please let us know by calling (415) 362-2352. We are deeply grateful for your contributions to protecting this magnificent part of America's legacy and want you to be pleased with the correspondence you receive from us. Thank you!



To receive our bulletin via email, send your email address to bulletin@savetheredwoods.org
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Save-the-Redwoods League

Spring Bulletin 2002

Photo of Mill Creek by Stephen Corley

League's Partnership with Mendocino Land Trust Saves Big River



This southwest view across Big River includes the bordering redwoods and estuary.
Photo by Jenny Griffin, Mendocino Land Trust

The League has been working closely with the Mendocino Land Trust to secure permanent protection of 7300 acres at the mouth of Big River immediately south of the town of Mendocino. In the project's early stages, the League helped develop State agency support and funding for this \$26 million purchase. The League has also pledged \$1 million to assist with the private funding which is a key component of the transaction. This project is a prime example of the partnership among conservation organizations so critical today in achieving conservation goals.

Big River was named for the majestic ancient redwoods that once cloaked its shores. Today, rapidly growing second growth redwoods thrive on the rich alluvial soils and surrounding slopes. Jeopardized by the threat of timber harvest by current landowner, Hawthorne Timber Company, the Big River property is perhaps the most important conservation purchase in Mendocino County in many years.

The purchase includes Big River's entire 8.3-mile estuary and an unusually extensive freshwater marsh, a haven for more than 131 species of birds. Conservation management of Big River will enhance the value of other nearby publicly owned lands that include Jackson State Demonstration Forest, Russian Gulch, Jughandle and Van Damme State Parks, achieving the landscape-scale protection essential for long term forest health.

LEAGUE SAVES 80 ACRES OF OLD GROWTH

A classic old growth redwood forest blankets steep slopes and small valleys of this 80-acre property adjacent to Butano State Park in San Mateo County. The property is ideally situated to provide nesting habitat for the endangered marbled murrelet that forages at sea and requires large, sheltered branches of old growth redwood and Douglas fir near the coast for nesting. Murrelet sightings are frequent in the Butano Creek watershed that encompasses this property. The League has negotiated the purchase of the property from the Regents of the University of California whose aggressive marketing made the property vulnerable to timber harvest.

Big Basin Redwoods State Park celebrating 100 years!

Big Basin, California's oldest State Park, celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. We owe its protection to The Sempervirens Club, founded in 1900 by Andrew P. Hill, a noted painter and photographer. Sixty-six years later, the Sempervirens Fund was created to continue the work started by the Club many years earlier. Save-the-Redwoods League and the Sempervirens Fund have worked together to secure additional protection for Big Basin and the redwood parks of the Santa Cruz mountains.

Nestled in the deep folds of the Santa Cruz Mountains, Big Basin Redwoods State Park encompasses over 18,000 acres of redwood forest, including the largest stand of ancient redwoods south of San Francisco. In addition to its ancient redwood groves, the park is well known for its many waterfalls, the best-known being Berry Creek Falls, and diverse natural environments. In spring, twenty-foot wild blooming azaleas framed by a backdrop of ancient redwoods perfume the air.

With more than 80 miles of trails there is one for everyone. While hiking you may encounter Ranger Scott Elliott who is new to the park, but not the area. He grew up "over the hill in Silicon Valley" and just loves being back. One of his favorite trails is the Pine Mountain trail from the heart of the



Big Basin Ranger Scott Elliott (left) and two park visitors.
Photo courtesy Big Basin Redwoods State Park

basin to Buzzards Roost—"The transition from the old-growth redwood forest in the heart of the basin, to the knobcone pine forest of the ridges is just fascinating. As an added bonus on most days you'll see buzzards riding ridge-top thermals" reports Ranger Elliott. The 4.4-mile round-trip includes a steep ascent to the ridge-top where you are rewarded with expansive views over the heart of the Park.

June 8th marks the beginning of 100 days of celebration of the park's 100th birthday, culminating September 15th. More information about lectures, performances, hikes and workshops is available at www.bigbasin.org. We encourage you to visit the park this summer and help celebrate 100 years of saving redwoods!

The League still has memorial groves available at Big Basin. Visits for interested donors may be arranged through the League office.

LEAGUE EDUCATION GRANTS

Education Grant Funds Available June 1 deadline for new applications

We are very pleased to announce the availability of grant funds for educators and students seeking to incorporate redwood education into their curriculum. Grant proposals are due June 1st, 2002. For complete guidelines and an application, please visit our web site at SaveTheRedwoods.org

League Grant Sends Arcata third-graders to Patrick's Point State Park

With the help of an education grant from Save-the-Redwoods League, four third-grade classes in Humboldt County spent the night and two intensive days in nearby Patrick's Point State Park. Students studied local native plants, created a meter-square map of redwood duff on the forest floor, and hiked through the redwoods to Ceremonial Rock. The students also visited Sumeg Village, a traditional Yurok seasonal fishing camp and garden to learn about plants used traditionally for baskets, food, and medicine. In their classrooms, the students continue to apply what they learned at Patrick's Point in reading, writing, history, and art classes. For more information about about Patrick's Point State Park, see www.parks.ca.gov.

Mill Creek: Putting It Back Together

Re-weaving an ancient forest

The purchase of 25,000-acre Mill Creek watershed is a major focus of the League's activities this year. The success of this project depends on your support and contributions.

Re-uniting the forests of Mill Creek with those in the surrounding parks is a milestone in the history of redwood conservation. It will allow management of all of the forests and rivers of Mill Creek to restore sustainable natural processes. Acquisition of Mill Creek will provide watershed protection for the primeval forests of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, strengthen connections between the parks of Redwood National and State Parks and the Smith River National Recreation Area, and permanently protect California's most prolific wild coho salmon nursery.

With a grant from the California Coastal Conservancy the League is developing an interim management plan to allow public access, research and education and to guide the protection and enhancement of natural resources. Development of the interim management plan is the first stage in the process of restoring the Mill Creek watershed and reweaving the fabric of the forest. This is the core of the League's commitment which commences with the acquisition of the property.



SMITH RIVER

The Wild and Scenic Smith River is one of America's last undammed river systems.



The confluence of the Middle Fork and the South Fork of the Smith River
Photo by Larry Ulrich

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Del Norte County school district plans to establish an environmental education center at Mill Creek. Students will do more than study the area as it transitions from timber to conservation management—they will participate in the process through a program of hands-on learning.

ANADROMOUS FISH

For once, the rains came at the right time this year. Flushed with winter storms the rivers rose—allowing thousands of coho salmon and cutthroat trout to return and spawn in their natal streams. Having completed their age-old rite, the exhausted spawners died: their decaying carcasses feeding stream and forest with rich nutrients harvested from the ocean.



East Branch Spawner
Photo by Zack Larson

Their progeny will hatch in the spring, renewing the ancient connection between ocean, river and forest.

As Mill Creek's forests recover, so will the streams. Healthy forest moderate water flow, provide shade in summer, and create fish rearing pools when they fall into the stream. In turn healthy rivers with healthy salmon and trout populations provide a much-needed source of nutrients for the forest and its plants and animals. The cycle is closed and the system is returned to balance.

RECREATION

Recreation opportunities abound: from strenuous hiking, to contemplative wildlife viewing and salmon watching. In time Mill Creek's trails will become a key connector in the planned "Coast to Crest" long distance trail.



Ancient Redwoods
Photo by Stephen Corley

ANCIENT REDWOODS

The ancient redwoods of Paragon Grove are home to endangered marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl. The elusive murrelet, a small sea bird, rears its eggs on the mossy branches of an ancient redwood. As the surrounding forest grows they will protect these ancient forest cores from the harsh climates created at unnatural edges and reduce murrelet predation. In time these islands of ancient forest will be connected to the larger groves of Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park.

OTHER PLANTS

The carnivorous California pitcherplant, one of Mill Creek's more unusual plants, thrives in the serpentine soils on the edge of the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion. The Klamath-Siskiyou is one of the world's most diverse ecosystems. The boundary between it, and the redwood region is a particularly rich "ecotone."



Darlingtonia Californica
Photo by Stephen Corley

Sudden Oak Death A new threat to the redwoods?

Alarming headlines recently reported that scientists believe that the coast redwood is infected with the fungus that causes "sudden oak death" (*Phytophthora ramorum*.) Dr. Matteo Garbelotto, scientist at UC Berkeley, is studying the disease. He reports "while we have found *Phytophthora* on diseased redwood sprouts, we have no evidence it is killing the sprouts."

In 1995 researchers in Marin County noticed that many of the tanoaks were dying of an unknown disease. In 2000 researchers at the University of California identified a previously unknown fungus-like organism, *Phytophthora* ("Phy-TOFF-thoruh"), in these dying trees. This disease has since been confirmed in ten central California coast counties and is known to infect 14 tree species, including several oaks, huckleberry, madrone, bay laurel, bigleaf azalea and California rhododendron. Of these it can be fatal to the tanoak, coast live oak, Shreve's oak, and black oak. Anyone who has spent time in the redwood forest will know these trees as part of the redwood forest. Indeed, it seems that the disease thrives in the same moist, cool conditions that nourish the coast redwood.

Dr. Garbelotto's current research involves inoculating redwood seedlings with the pathogen to see if sudden oak death cankers are re-created. He notes "it is possible that redwoods may qualify as a host species, but it's a long way from there to big trees dying." He continues to be concerned about the spread of the disease, particularly among the oaks. "Tanoaks are a common component of the redwood forest. When the forest loses its tanoaks, the ecological dynamic changes."

Since its evolution over two million years ago, the ecological dynamics of the redwood forest have constantly changed in response to evolution, geological activity, climatic change, pests and fire. These changes are a natural part of all ecological systems. Changes can be cataclysmic—witness the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. But more often they are slow, often imperceptible to the human observer. Sudden Oak Death presents a new challenge to the redwood forest. The work of the League and others over the past 80 years has protected representative samples of the ancient redwood forest. Our current projects seek to expand this protection and connect protected forests thereby restoring a fully functioning forest landscape. It is these larger connected landscapes that will be able to respond to, and absorb, future changes.

For more information on Sudden Oak Death Syndrome check out the California Oak Mortality Task Force's web-site at: www.suddenoakdeath.org.

Book Reviews



A Guide to the Sequoia Groves of California by Dwight Willard. Yosemite Association, 2000. Available from the Yosemite Association at (209) 379-2648. \$17.95. A portion of the sale of this book benefits Yosemite National Park.

This guide is a treasure house of information about each of the world's 67 giant sequoia groves found in California's Sierra Nevada. The size, condition, history, and notable trees of each grove are described with accompanying maps and beautiful photographs.

Giants in the Earth edited by Peter Johnstone. Heydey Books, Berkeley, CA 2001. \$18.00. This anthology of 46 writings includes fiction, poetry, essays, diary excerpts and diatribe. The selections trace the path of California history beginning with native peoples' impressions of the intrinsic mystery of these 'giants in the earth', European explorers' view of the redwoods as a primary timber source, and today's conservation leaders advocacy to save the redwoods. Selections include writings of Jack Kerouac, Gary Snyder, Armisted Maupin, John Muir, and Julia Butterfly Hill. 50 historical photos, with notes on the photographers, complete this impressive volume.

Big tree, on Mr. Richard Allard's claim, North Fork Elk River, 18 feet in diameter, April 1872. Photo by Anasa Plummer. By permission of Heydey Books, Berkeley, California.

Dillonwood Grove Celebration

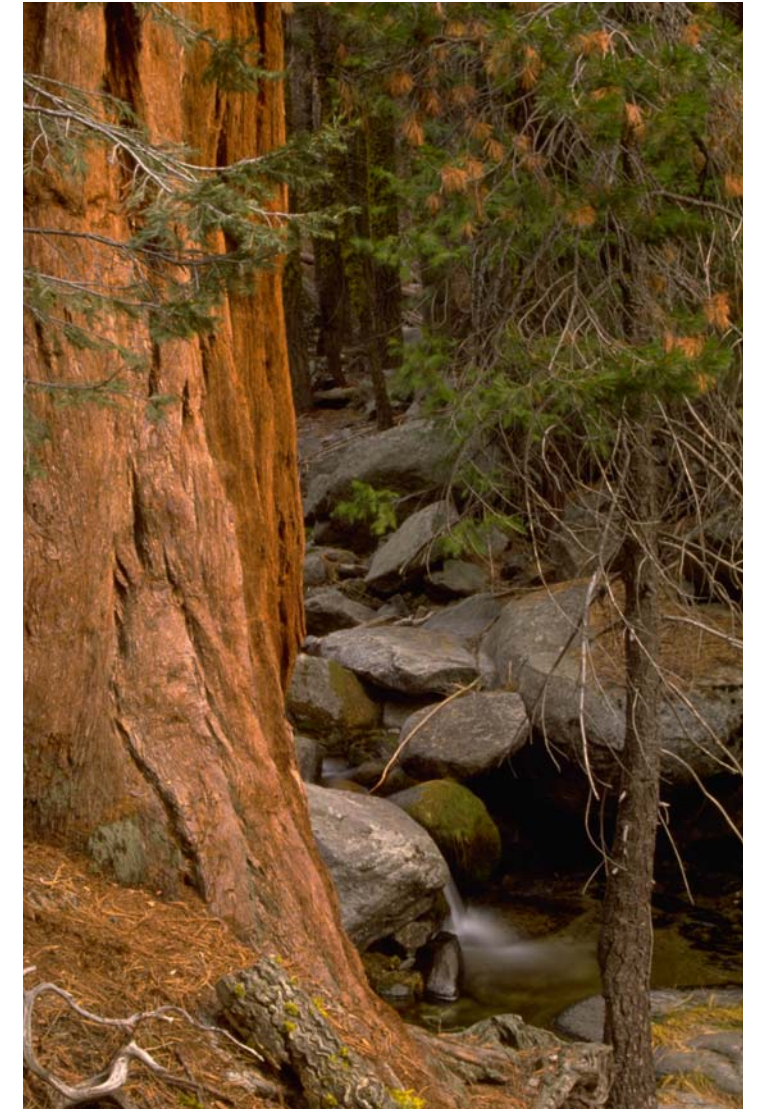
Please join us May 30, 2002

On December 4th, 2001, the League purchased 1540-acre Dillonwood giant sequoia grove and immediately transferred it to Sequoia National Park. Dillonwood has now been reunited with its sister grove - the Garfield Grove - for permanent protection and stewardship. More than 12,000 gifts to the League from all 50 states, made Dillonwood's purchase possible.

The League is pleased to announce the celebration of Dillonwood's addition to Sequoia National Park on May 30, 2002. The celebration will take place at the ribbon cutting of the Park's new Giant Forest Museum, created as part of the restoration of 150 acres of the Giant Forest. For many years, the Giant Forest was the center of visitor activities in the park. Intensive development and visitor-use were compacting soils threatening the health of the trees. The restoration project removed all structures under the old trees and planting of hundreds of sequoia seedlings, including 200 donated by the League. The new museum takes the place of the historic structure.

The League began its campaign to save Dillonwood in the fall of 1999 with an agreement to purchase the grove on the southern boundary of Sequoia National Park for its appraised value of \$10.3 million. Dillonwood's giant trees tower over a healthy multi-aged sequoia forest, uncommon in the park from years of fire suppression. Together, the Dillonwood-Garfield Grove comprises one of the five largest giant sequoia groves in existence. Dillonwood's wild and rugged terrain is home to numerous species including black bear, mountain lion and many others now threatened or endangered.

Dillonwood's successful purchase and inclusion in the park are the results of partnerships among League members, private foundations, public agencies, and both Democratic and Republican legislators, all united with a common vision to permanently protect this part of our natural and cultural legacy. Representative George



An ancient sequoia towers over the north fork of the Tule River in the Dillonwood Grove Photo courtesy Trust for Public Land

Radanovich (R-Mariposa) and Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) introduced legislation in both houses of Congress to expand the boundary, while Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) worked to secure a federal appropriation for one-half of Dillonwood's appraised value. With the support of thousands of League members, these efforts yielded the expansion of the boundary and a \$5 million federal contribution to match the \$5.3 million donated by League members.

For more information on the celebration on Thursday, May 30, 2002, please visit SaveTheRedwoods.org