

Save-the-Redwoods League
Spring Bulletin 2003

Photo by Carrie Grant

Message from the President



The Save-the-Redwoods League's 84th year has been an eventful one! In addition to completing the largest acquisition in the League's history, we have been working in earnest to develop a clear strategic direction for our future and have undertaken some significant changes in the Board of Directors.

New Strategic Plan Takes Shape

The League has completed a periodic review of its strategic plan to align the League's priorities for effective action. League Directors, Councillors, staff, and members of the California Department of Parks and Recreation reflected carefully in a multi-day process to evaluate accomplishments of the past and key opportunities of a future with less than 4% of the ancient redwood forest remaining. The new strategic plan stresses three areas for continued League effectiveness.

A Comprehensive Conservation Strategy

The plan endorses refinement and completion of a scientifically based conservation plan for the forests throughout the entire range of the redwoods for evaluation of acquisition, restoration and stewardship priorities. Increasing pressures from population growth and logging intensify the risk of fragmentation of the ancient forest and its ability to support the wildlife that depend on the ancient forest. Watershed protection and linkages among protected areas will continue to play a key role in the League's strategy.

Public Awareness and Education

Recognizing that broad public support now and in the future is pivotal to effective long-term preservation of the redwood forest, the League will continue to expand environmental education programs focusing on redwood ecology for students from kindergarten through high school. To inspire awe in the public at large through a deepened understanding of the redwood forest, the League will continue to explore development of an interpretive center and partnerships with existing interpretive programs.

League Effectiveness

The League's effectiveness is fundamentally rooted in the deepening engagement of our current members and attracting new members to the League. Strong volunteer leadership coupled with excellent staff will continue to be pivotal in future years.

Renewal of the League's vision has been accompanied by changes in the Board of Directors.

Thanks for a Job Well Done!

Two long-term Directors, Cynthia Grubb and former President and Chair Bruce Howard stepped down from the Board after many years of committed service. Their wise counsel will be missed. After 7 years of outstanding leadership as President, Richard Otter was elected to replace Bruce as Chair of the Board.

New Board Members and Officers

Retirement of two members and expansion of the size of the Board from seven to nine members created the opportunity for election of four new Directors who bring a wealth of expertise and experience to Board deliberations:

- **Jim Larson**, *Attorney at Law in Fort Bragg, Mendocino County*
- **Wally Mark**, *Professor of Forestry at California Polytechnic State University – San Luis Obispo & Director of Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch.*
- **Sarah Connick**, *senior project manager for Sustainable Conservation, completing a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy and Management at UC, Berkeley*
- **Pete Dangermond** *of the Dangermond Group, planning consultants for parks, recreation, wildlife conservation, and open space preservation and Director of California State Department of Parks and Recreation from 1980-1982.*

As the League's new President, together with the rest of the Board of Directors, I look forward to the opportunities to implement the strategic plan this year and in the years ahead. This will be possible only with the continued support of you, the League's members in all fifty states, for which we are deeply grateful. Thank you for joining us in meeting the challenges of the critical work of saving the redwoods.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Coassen".

Celebration of the Fish, Forest and Future of Mill Creek

On Saturday, December 7th, Save-the-Redwoods League and Redwood National and State Parks hosted more than 120 special guests, League members and the general public to celebrate the fish, forest and future of Mill Creek.

Although Mill Creek is not yet open to the general public on a regular basis because of the State budget crisis, special permission was obtained for a one-time event to introduce the public to the 25,000 acre forest for the first time since the League completed its purchase in June of 2002.

Visitors were escorted to the confluence of the West Branch and the East Fork of Mill Creek, where they were treated to cookies, hot chocolate and speeches by State Park Superintendent Rick Sermon and Save-the-Redwoods League Executive Director, Kate Anderton.

Mill Creek is a tributary of the Smith River and is prime spawning ground for chinook and coho salmon. The celebration was originally planned to highlight the annual return of the fish at the normal high point of their run. Unusually light rainfall in October and November kept water levels so low that



the return of most of the coho had not yet occurred. Although opportunities for viewing spawning salmon were limited, the gorgeous day inspired a wonderful celebration. Ranger Rick Sermon and local fisheries biologists Paul Ahlbro, Chris Howard and Jim Waldvogel led visitors on tours to the creek, up to the Childs Hill overlook, and into one of the remaining stands of old-growth redwood trees.

League and Redwood National and State Parks staff were very pleased with the turn out at the event and were happy to join the individuals and groups at the place where the branches of Mill Creek come together to celebrate the success of the acquisition and the protection of the land.

Over Christmas, the rains finally arrived. Jim Waldvogel reported seeing over 250 salmon spawning in the west branch: some weighing as much as 40 lbs!



Photos by Stephen Corley

Member Spotlight

Dr. Jules Riskin, League member for over 30 years, recently sent this photo of himself in front of his wall of Honor Cards which commemorate trees that have been planted in honor of his wife and him by friends and family members. Dr. Riskin says he encourages his children and grandchildren to give contributions in his honor for special occasions like birthdays and anniversaries, instead of buying more material things that he has "more than enough" of. Dr. Riskin said, "Several visitors to our home have noticed the ten identical photos of the trees and have liked the idea." If you would like to plant a tree in honor or memory of someone special, please contact Hattie Washington at 415-362-2352 ex. 19.



The Upper Mattole River and Forest Cooperative

The ecological benefits of the Sinkyone are expanded through a unique public-private partnership that has evolved in the upper Mattole over the past decade. The Upper Mattole River and Forest Cooperative unites public and private landowners sharing a common desire to protect and restore a fully functioning forest and river system in the region. This group, which collectively manages 3,500-acres in the headwaters of the Mattole, meets quarterly to coordinate resource management. The Sanctuary Forest, a local landtrust that has spearheaded the group, offers a series of guided summer walks that explore the State Park and neighboring public and private lands not normally open to the public. "What's special about the region is the mixture of redwood, fir and other forests that grow on the steep slopes" notes Eric Goldsmith, Executive Director of the Sanctuary Forest. "One of our summer hikes is an annual pilgrimage to Big Red - we need at least 13-people or we're unable to give this ancient redwood a hug!" Led by local naturalists, these walks offer a unique insight into the heart of the Mattole. You can contact Sanctuary Forest at (707) 986-1087 to request a summer walk program.

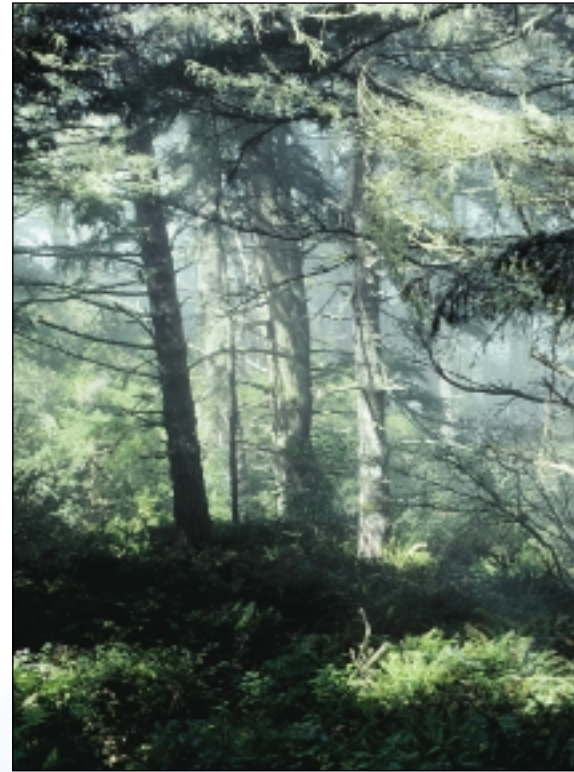


Spotted Owl Photo by Carrie Grant

Nestled on the rugged slopes of the Lost Coast in Mendocino County, the 7,367-acre Sinkyone Wilderness State Park occupies one of the wildest stretches of coastline in the continental United States. Steep mountain slopes drop precipitously into the Pacific, cloaked with coast redwoods that thrive in the ocean mists. Sinkyone is a land of forests, prairies, bluffs, beaches and tidepools: home to a wide variety of plants and animals. The park has a fascinating natural and cultural history and is a rewarding, if remote, place to visit.

Despite its name, the wilderness has seen countless people come and go over the centuries: some by choice, and others under darker circumstances. For thousands of years, the Sinkyone Indians lived on this coast. They suffered forced removals and massacres in the mid to late 1800's to make way for European settlers, attracted by the coast redwood. The settlers built mills and developed Bear Harbor to ship lumber to San Francisco. In little more than 100 years much of the ancient redwood forest was cut, leaving a network of roads crisscrossing steep slopes and a young regenerating forest.

Wilderness Sinkyone Wilder



"Who can see such trees and
Thomas

A small state park was established initially at Bear Harbor and expanded gradually over the years with the persistent advocacy of local residents and the critical support of Save-the-Redwoods League and other conservation organizations. The League has spearheaded the purchase of over 4,500-acres of forest land valued at over \$16 million in Sinkyone Wilderness State Park and the Upper Mattole region including the Lost River Forest and Dreamstream, 405-acres of ancient redwood and Douglas-fir forest, home to the endangered northern spotted owl.

Reclaimed Sinkyone State Park



Photo by Carrie Grant

"Bear to be away from them?"

Merton

The largest remaining grove of ancient redwoods in the Sinkyone State Park, rescued from logging in the 1980s, was named in honor of Sally Bell, a Sinkyone Indian woman.

Inspired by the environmentalist movement to protect and preserve North Coast forests, the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council was established in 1986, "to steward the cultural-natural resources critical to local Indian peoples' traditional ways of life." The consortium of eleven tribes notes, "Our main emphasis is to provide a natural setting

that encourages and increases traditional cultural practices among local tribal members. The Council is using a holistic approach to wilderness reclamation; our goal is to restore historic Indian stewardship to a wilderness area where so much ecological integrity has been lost."

In 1997 the Council purchased from Trust for Public Land 3,845 acres for the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness. Although this land in the critical watershed upslope (east) from the State Park requires restoration, it will enable the Council to sustain traditional Indian cultural uses and protect cultural resources. The Council is working with State Parks and other entities to ensure consistent wilderness management of all Sinkyone lands and to remove many miles of roads constructed during the logging boom. With funding support from the State Coastal Conservancy, the Council is preparing a plan for future development of low-impact public campgrounds and hiking trails within the InterTribal Wilderness that will link to the adjacent State Park's Lost Coast Trail.

The next chapter in the history of Sinkyone Wilderness State Park is about to begin with the creation of a General Plan to guide park management for coming years. Thomas Merton, renowned Catholic theologian, sought spiritual solitude on the Lost Coast in the late 1960s. Deeply moved by the ocean and the forest, he wrote, "Who can see such trees and bear to be away from them?" Those lucky enough to travel to the Lost Coast and the Sinkyone often feel the same.

Visiting the Park

The northern entrance to the Park is reached from the Briceland Road. Leaving highway 101 at Redway, the route crosses the Eel River and heads deep into rural Humboldt County through open meadow and dense forest. The road turns south and runs parallel to the Mattole River, climbing to its headwaters at the edge of the park. Approaching the coast, redwoods tower over the Mattole's cold waters shading coho salmon spawning beds.

After cresting the final hill, the visitor drops steeply onto a gravel road through a series of sharp turns. The ocean, often shrouded with mist, remains unseen below, until arrival at a parking area on the shore. A gentle coastline trail heads north through several environmental campsites, easily accessible from the road. Hiking on the bluffs, dropping down to the beaches, you may sight majestic Roosevelt elk, part of a herd relocated to the Park. These magnificent animals are best viewed from a safe distance; single young males in particular are unpredictable!

Hiking opportunities include an adventurous multi-day backpack along the Lost Coast trail linking Usal in the south to the King Range National Conservation Area in the north. For more information, visit the web at www.parks.ca.gov or call the park at (707) 986-7711 for a recorded message.

Redwood Leadership Society

The Redwood Leadership Society is Save-the-Redwoods League's premiere circle of donors, providing the financial foundation for the League's vital efforts to protect and preserve the remaining ancient redwood forest.

Save-the-Redwoods gratefully acknowledges these generous supporters who made 2002 one of the most successful years in the history of the League. Your dedication to preserving redwood forests is invaluable.

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* Indicates donors are deceased.

Bold type indicates donors are current or former members of the Board of Directors or Board of Councillors.

The Redwood Leadership Society is comprised of donors who have given a total of \$1000 or more to League programs between January 1st and December 31st 2002. The following information is accurate to the best of our knowledge, but errors occasionally occur. If you have any corrections, please let us know. If your name does not appear on this list and should, please contact the League's office at (888) 836-0005.

500 Inner City Students Among Grant Beneficiaries

In September, Save-the-Redwoods League awarded thirteen education grants totaling \$50,000 to K-12 educators, teachers and students in San Francisco, Marin, Mendocino, Humboldt, and Del Norte Counties. An award ceremony at Dr. George Washington Carver Academic Elementary School for three San Francisco schools concluded with students from each school planting a redwood tree at a nearby city park. Ron Vinson, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, attended the event and noted that "Save-the-Redwoods League's education grants add to the rich mosaic of neighborhoods that makes San Francisco a distinct and treasured city."

The education grants program began in 2001 to inspire integration of redwood and forest stewardship



Photo by Ruskin Hartley

themes into the study of math, science, reading, and art both inside and outside of the classroom. Research shows environment-based education improves academic performance. The League is committed to engaging the future stewards of the redwoods through an early introduction to the forest, recognizing that urban students in particular, may never have the opportunity to visit the forest.

In the first school year of the education grants program, the League awarded approximately \$30,000 and reached nearly 12,000 students in Northern California.

One San Francisco student who visited Muir Woods wrote, "I liked climbing into the hollow log and kissing the banana slug. The banana slug was kind of slimy. I liked walking on the hikes. I liked hugging the tree. We learned that when you are quiet you can hear the birds. It was cool looking at the very old trees."



Photo by Ruskin Hartley

Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea expansion

The League recently purchased 160 acres of forest land in the heart of the wildlife habitat area known as the Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea. This newest acquisition includes a portion of Gilham Creek, tributary of the Mattole.

The Corridor from the Redwoods to the Sea protects major stepping stones linking the ancient redwoods of Humboldt Redwoods State Park through the ancient douglas fir forest of the Mattole River Valley to the King Range National Conservation Area, the longest un-roaded coastal stretch in the lower 48 states. Since 1999, the League has purchased approximately 5,300 acres in the Corridor, adding parcels each year to expand protection and reinforce wildlife habitat linkages in the Mattole River Valley. These lands are transferred to the US Bureau of Land Management for permanent protection. The terms of an option agreement to add another 940 acres to the Corridor are in the final stages of negotiation.

New Groves

We are excited to be adding to our grove program. You can now select your own honorary grove from the new groves in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park or Humboldt Redwoods State Park at the head of the Avenue of the Giants, the most famous redwood forest in the world. There will also be groves available this year at Mill Creek and Big River.

Daly Groves For the first time in years, groves are available along the Avenue of the Giants. Set on the banks of the Eel River, these ancient monarchs tower above a beautiful apple orchard and meadow.

Jedediah Smith Groves Nine miles east of Crescent City on Highway 199, these groves are a perfect example of the pristine, lush, primeval redwood forest. Ground cover is dense and wildlife is abundant.

Big River Groves Big River is so named not for the size of the river but

the size of the trees that once carpeted its shores. At 8.3 miles, it is the longest undeveloped estuary in northern California. Big River Groves are spectacular for bird watching, with over 130 species identified to date.

Mill Creek Groves This 25,000-acre property connects two prime areas of ancient forest, Jedediah Smith and Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Parks. This forest is home to some of the most prolific coho salmon spawning grounds in California and is also valued habitat for the rare, endangered marbled murrelet and northern spotted owl.

Memorial and honor groves are a thoughtful way to pass on to future generations the beauty of the redwoods, while setting aside a special place in the forest where you and your family can enjoy the trees, rivers and wildlife that surround them. Contact Holly Garrison at 415-362-2352 x20 for more information.

Legacy Gifts

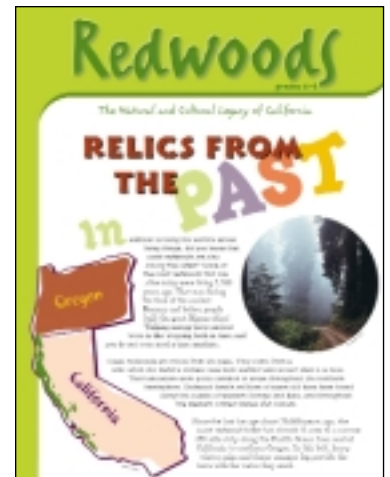
Redwood trees can live for over two thousand years. With your legacy gift, you can ensure that they can live for centuries to come. By thinking of the future and including Save-the-Redwoods League in your estate planning, you can ensure that the redwood forest will continue to flourish and inspire generations to come. Your planned gift will preserve and protect these majestic giants so that your legacy will also be their legacy.

It is simple to add a gift to the League in your existing will, trust or other estate plan, or as part of a new plan. Please contact us for information that can help you with planning questions. Or if you have already provided for the League, allow us to welcome you as a member of the Redwood Legacy Circle. Please contact Holly Garrison at 415.362.2352 x20 or at hgarrison@savetheredwoods.org.

New K-12 Redwood Education Materials Available

Save-the-Redwoods League has released a set of redwood education materials for students in grades K-12. Titled *Redwoods*, fact sheets are available for grade ranges: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12. The simple, engaging designs and easy to read format make these materials especially student friendly.

Redwoods includes information on where redwood trees live, how tall they grow and their surrounding environment. They provide activities for students to get involved in redwood and forest education. For students and teachers wanting to learn more, additional resources are also listed.



Redwoods is available at no charge from our website SaveTheRedwoods.org or by calling the office (415) 362-2352.



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

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