



Summer Bulletin '10



**State Parks Crisis Spurs New
League Partnerships, Programs**



Photo: paulhami, Flickr Creative Commons

Our Mission: Save the Redwoods
League protects and restores redwood forests and connects people with their peace and beauty so these wonders of the natural world flourish.

FEATURES

- 04 Protection:**
State Parks Crisis Spurs New League Partnerships, Programs
- 08 Community:**
Appreciating Redwoods at Many Levels
- 09 Conservation:**
Protected, Thanks to Our Members
- 12 Education:**
Inspiring Leaders in the Sequoias
- 13 5 Ways You Can Help Save Redwoods**
- 14 Onto the Trail**

Cover image: Save the Redwoods League transferred an 80-acre redwood canyon in Big Sur to a new partner, Los Padres National Forest. To return the land to a natural state, we dismantled four cabins and had them removed from the steep, remote canyon by helicopter. Photo: Connie McCoy and Robert Willett

Left image: We are working to purchase 120 acres in urgent need of protection that would buffer these trees downstream in Redwood National Park. Learn more on page 11.



Dear Save the Redwoods League Friends,

As you may know, twice in the last two years, budget challenges have threatened to shut down California's state parks, prompting their placement on the 2008 list of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Unfortunately, California's state parks are on the 2010 list, too.

Save the Redwoods League has been building California state redwood parks with our members' support since 1918. To protect these victories of the past during the current budget crisis, California State Parks needs our help. Read the story on page 4 about the ways we are ensuring that the land and wildlife our members have saved from immediate threat have the long-term resources they need. This story also explains how we are working with new partners to protect redwoods and provide public access to them. And you'll learn about our new project to help create the California state parks of the future.

We recently redesigned, according to a survey of our members, the Conservation section on page 9. This section highlights our latest land protection projects. Your valuable feedback helps us continue to improve all of our publications. Thank you.

Our generous members' support makes our work possible. Please continue your support to help us protect redwoods and remove California state parks from the list of endangered historic places. And Californians, please vote for Proposition 21, the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010, in November to ensure stable funding for our state parks.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ruskin K. Hartley".

Ruskin K. Hartley Executive Director

Protection

State Parks Crisis Spurs New League Partnerships, Programs

Save the Redwoods League has found new ways to protect land and provide public access to it while supporting California state redwood parks that our members help create.

The League transferred this 80-acre redwood canyon in Big Sur to a new partner, Los Padres National Forest.



California State Parks (CSP), which buys or accepts donated land from the League, has struggled with declining funding over the past two decades despite increased demand. Twice in the past two years, our state parks — many of which are redwood parks that our members helped create — were on the brink of closure. So the League has recently partnered with other organizations that acquire and steward redwood land we purchase, thanks to our generous members' gifts.

New Land Protection Partners

We started work with a new partner when we transferred a spectacular 80-acre redwood canyon at the south end of Big Sur to the surrounding Los Padres National Forest in February 2010. The land, half of which contains old-growth redwood forest, also affords stunning ocean views and abundant wildlife.

The League bought the property from Robert Willett and a co-owner. In the 1960s, Willett built a cabin that was only accessible by foot in the remote, steep canyon. As the years passed, the climb grew tougher for Willett, and he realized it was time to sell the property.

"I wanted the canyon to be wild again, as it was when I first saw it," Willett said. "I was happy to sell it to the League."

We removed four cabins to return the land to a natural state before the transfer.

Because of budget support from US Representative Sam Farr, who represents California's Central Coast, the US Forest Service was able to pay the League \$2.2 million for the property, allowing us to use that sum to protect another important redwood property.

In the same canyon in April 2010, the League purchased another 40 acres of never-harvested redwood property for transfer to Los Padres.

In Sonoma County, Save the Redwoods League worked with another new partner this year. We donated a 40-acre redwood forest property to the US Army Corps of Engineers, which manages Lake Sonoma Recreation Area. Portions of the stand are estimated to be 200 years old. The League's science-based Master Plan identifies protection of Sonoma County redwoods as a high priority because, compared to other subregions of the coast redwoods, the area has very little older redwood forest left.

To help protect another Sonoma parcel, the League entered another new partnership with nine organizations last December. This alliance helped the Sonoma Land Trust acquire the stunning



The League worked with a new partner this year, donating a 40-acre redwood forest property (in the background) to the US Army Corps of Engineers, which manages Lake Sonoma Recreation Area.

5,630-acre Jenner Headlands, including 3,100 acres of redwood and Douglas-fir forest. The \$36 million parcel includes eight watersheds, numerous threatened and endangered species, dramatic views, extensive opportunities for future recreation and a spectacular segment of the California Coastal Trail.

Protecting ‘Saved’ Redwoods; Improving the Park Experience

Thousands of acres of redwoods live in California state parks and reserves created with the support of generations of League members. To protect these victories of the past during CSP’s budget crisis, California State Parks needs our help.

“The most important thing we can do for the redwoods that our members have already saved from immediate threat is to make sure their stewards have the resources they need for now and the future,” said Ruskin Hartley, League Executive Director.

These are among the League’s projects to help the redwoods in California state parks.



Photo: Phil Schermeister

Get Involved

Volunteer for California State Parks as a docent, caretaker or patroller, or choose from many other roles. Call (916) 653-9069 or e-mail vipp@parks.ca.gov, and leave your name and address to receive application forms and information about each of the parks.

Ballot Initiative:

One of the most important things the League can do to protect and restore the redwood forest is to support a financially stable, long-term protector. The League and partners filed language to put a measure on the November 2010 ballot that would ensure stable funding and protect wildlife in our chronically underfunded California state parks. The State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010 provides registered California vehicles free, year-round day-use access to state parks in exchange for a new annual \$18 surcharge. Californians, please vote for Proposition 21 in November. If you have friends and relatives in California, tell them to vote for Proposition 21! Keep informed by visiting SaveTheRedwoods.org/voice.

Park Enhancement Projects:

The better a redwood park visitor's experience, the more likely they will support redwoods. One such project is a \$395,000 enhancement to be completed by this newsletter's printing. It includes the addition of an

interpretive kiosk, new trail signage, a paved parking lot and new accessible restrooms and picnic tables under the giant redwoods at Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. In addition to improving the experience for visitors, we removed sediment sources associated with the existing failing infrastructure that was threatening the Big River.

Proud Partner Program:

California State Parks seeks partners to generate critical financial support that improves park visitors' experiences. The League is contributing \$264,000 over the next three years to sponsor 33 park brochures that will teach visitors about these parks amid the redwoods. These brochures will mention the League and our Web address to garner additional redwoods supporters.

Parks Excellence Project:

In another initiative to improve the parks experience for visitors, the League, with encouragement from CSP, is partnering with

California State Parks Foundation to create a vision for state parks of the future. In developing the project, we sought the input of parks professionals, parks partners and the public. Almost 8,000 individuals participated in the online survey. Thank you for your participation! We look forward to sharing the results and recommendations with you.

All these new efforts are part of the League's tradition of trailblazing — of continuing as a leader in conservation with your crucial support. 🌲



Photo: Jim Block

Save the Redwoods League is among honored “partners who tirelessly devote themselves to our state parks mission.”

—**Ruth Coleman**, California State Parks Director, about the 2009 Director's Recognition Awards

Your Membership Matters: 2010 Annual Renewal

Thank you for your 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 on our secure Web site, SaveTheRedwoods.org/give.

Community

Appreciating Redwoods at Many Levels

“Haven’t all the redwoods been saved?”

It’s among the remarks that Caryl Hart, PhD, hears occasionally when people learn she is a Councillor, or volunteer advisor, for Save the Redwoods League.

Hart, an attorney and Chair of the California State Parks and Recreation Commission, is taken aback, because she knows only 18 percent of coast redwood forests are protected. The remaining 82 percent may be logged. For this reason and many others, she supports the League.

“From the beginning, the League has been on the cutting edge of land conservation. Not only the idea that redwoods had to be saved, but also that redwoods should become the basis for a park system — those were visionary ideas.”

Hart continues to support the League for innovating through the new Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative.

“Now that many of us who work on environmental issues are very concerned about climate change, the League’s path-breaking work is critical in helping to fund research that identifies redwood forests as among the most important for sequestering carbon,” Hart said.

Hart is well-versed in the scientific reasons for protecting redwoods, having recently completed a doctoral dissertation on climate change and state parks.

“It’s essential to protect the areas where redwoods grow as a native species,” she said, because redwood forests provide vital services, filtering water and air and storing large quantities of climate-changing carbon.

But Hart learned the emotional reasons for protecting redwoods while living among them after college.

“Once you’re in a real redwood forest in all its glory, you’ll never be the same,” she said. 🌲



Photo: Peter Buranzon

“The League’s path-breaking work is critical.”

— Caryl Hart, enjoying the redwoods in her backyard

Conservation

Protected,
Thanks to Our
Members

1 Purchase Buffers Calaveras Giant Sequoias

Thanks to our members, Save the Redwoods League has purchased 320 acres of forestland that buffer the amazing giant sequoias of Calaveras Big Trees State Park! Our members' gifts also qualified the League in May 2010 for an anonymous donor's \$150,000 in matching funds to support this project.

Bordering the park on three sides, the \$550,000 Beaver Creek property is a ridgeline forest on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountains. This forest parcel is home to abundant wildlife and a 226-foot-tall, 6-foot-wide giant sequoia (pictured, right). It's also part of the vital Stanislaus River watershed.

We purchased the Beaver Creek property according to our science-based Master Plan, which includes buffering Earth's 77 remaining giant sequoia groves from the impacts of development and incompatible forestry practices and saving cooler, higher ground for the trees, a potential solution for addressing rapid climate change.



This Beaver Creek sequoia is at location number 1 on the map on page 11.

Beaver Creek, at 5,000 feet above sea level, is a potential future sanctuary for more giant sequoias. Meanwhile, we are planning to restore logged portions of the property to create a diverse forest ecosystem that functions more naturally. Trees

will be planted in recently logged areas, and some will be cut where trees were planted too close together. This thinning will reduce fire risk and encourage more vigorous growth in the remaining trees. 🌲



Trees reach skyward at Beaver Creek.

Conservation

Protected, Thanks to Our Members

(continued)

PROPERTIES: 1–7

Save the Redwoods League protected these properties according to the following priorities in our science-based Master Plan: The League acquires *inholdings*, or privately held land inside public land, to provide permanent, complete protection for redwood parks. Protecting *old-growth* redwood forest and associated *watersheds* are other priorities for sustaining these fragile ecosystems to benefit wildlife and people.

2 LAKE SONOMA RECREATION AREA — 40 ACRES

League donated older redwood forest property to Lake Sonoma Recreation Area.

Highlights: Portions of the stand are estimated to be 200 years old. See further description and photo on pages 5 and 6. Property is accessible by hiking trail about 4 miles from the Skaggs Springs Vista Trailhead.

Cost: \$145,000

3 FOREST OF NISENE MARKS STATE PARK — 0.5 ACRE

League acquired inholding for future addition to park.

Highlights: Acquisition contributes to protection of Soquel Creek watershed. League will remove a cabin to return the land to a natural state.

Cost: \$300,000

4 JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK — 20 ACRES

League acquired inholding for future addition to park.

Highlights: Spectacular ocean view. Upslope of old-growth redwood forest along fork of Partington Creek. Will be accessible by hiking trail after League's cleanup of building debris from 2008 forest fire.

Cost: \$120,000

5,6 LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST — 40 ACRES, 80 ACRES

League purchased old-growth redwood properties.

Highlights: Spectacular ocean views. Creek flows through properties. Protecting redwoods in this southernmost extent of their range is important because they may be uniquely adapted to heat and drought. Area forest is home to numerous

imperiled animal species. League removed four cabins on 80-acre parcel, restored land to its natural state and transferred it to National Forest. See story on page 5. We will do the same for 40-acre property, purchased with Hind Foundation support.

Cost: \$2.75 million

7 HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK — 10 ACRES

League transferred land to buffer ancient redwoods.

Highlights: Forested primarily with second-growth redwoods, the property is important to protect the Franklin K. Lane Grove of ancient redwoods downslope and the South Fork of the Eel River, which is valuable coho salmon habitat.

Cost: \$206,000

Redwood Groves Dedicated between June 15, 2009, and June 14, 2010

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

John M. Lathe Grove

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Ella S. Clarke Memorial Grove

Portola Redwoods State Park

Charles and Fanclare Lathe Memorial Grove

Gladys Quarré Knapp Grove

Susan Swinerton McBaine Grove

Wythes Family Grove

Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park

Jules and Shirley Riskin Family Grove

The Frances and M. Leventritt Family Grove

Wilder Ranch State Park

Fred T. Willbanks Inspirational Grove

Henry P. Hilliard Memorial Grove

For more information about grove dedications, contact Megan Ferreira at (888) 836-0005, or e-mail mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org.

Help Us Save These Redwood Forestlands

PROPERTIES: 8–10

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.

Please visit our secure donation page, SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedwoodLandFund, or send your gift in the attached envelope. Thank you!



8 REDWOOD CREEK — 120 ACRES

Why It's a Priority to Save

Protection of this property in the Redwood Creek watershed is critical because it buffers Redwood National Park downstream, including the Tall Trees Grove. This grove harbors some of Earth's tallest 10 trees. Purchase of the parcel will protect the watershed's exquisite habitat for imperiled wildlife, ranging from the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, to coho and chinook salmon. We must raise \$250,000 to complete the purchase. The property is adjacent to Lacks Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern, where the League protected 4,491 acres. The Lacks Creek drainage is a high priority for protection partly because it has many "inner gorge" features. These are a source of large woody debris that creates essential deep, cold pools in streams for salmon.

9 STEWARTS POINT — 871 ACRES

Why It's a Priority to Save

This property is rich with seaside bluffs, salmon habitat and coast redwood forests. After securing a purchase option in 2008, the Pacific Forest Trust turned to the League to serve as an interim buyer when state funding dried up. Aided by a \$1 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and a loan from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, on June 29, 2010, the League purchased the property for \$11.25 million. We will hold the land until PFT can purchase and permanently conserve it when state funding is available. Thank you to our members for your gifts. We still need your support to help develop a management, restoration and public access plan.

10 LOS PADRES WATERSHED — 20 ACRES

Why It's a Priority to Save

This \$110,000 property is in an old-growth redwood forest watershed that drains into old-growth redwood forest canyons. The parcel is upstream from two redwood properties the League recently acquired (see properties 5 and 6). In addition, the property, with its beautiful views of the southern Big Sur coast, is one of two remaining inholdings in this watershed of Los Padres National Forest. After acquiring the property, we would transfer it to the National Forest for permanent protection.

Education

Inspiring Leaders in the Sequoias



Photo: California State Parks Office of Community Involvement

Sixteen-year-old Jessenia Nunez learned life lessons that one wouldn't expect to gain from camping among the giant sequoias of Calaveras Big Trees State Park: The Mendota, California, resident learned that she and other students can lead projects that improve their communities.

Nunez recently completed the Outdoor Youth Connection (OYC) Program of California State Parks, California State Parks Foundation and Pacific Leadership Institute. Because OYC is returning to the redwoods this year, Save the Redwoods League awarded the program \$4,000. The grant is part of the League's mission to connect people with the redwoods' peace and beauty so that these young forest visitors come to

know these magnificent giant sequoias and become their ongoing supporters.

"There are a lot of things we can do if we organize."

—Jessenia Nunez,
participant in a program
supported by the League

OYC provides teens ages 14 through 17 skills in outdoor activities, leadership, teamwork and decision-making. As part of OYC, they organize and lead projects for their peers and communities.

Nunez joined OYC after her teacher, Sam Rubio, suggested it. Before her OYC participation, she had never been to the redwoods.

A League grant supported OYC in the redwoods for teens to gain skills in outdoor activities, leadership, teamwork and decision-making.

"I loved it!" Nunez said. "I was amazed by the size of the trees and how it was so different from a city or a little town. I woke up in the morning and the air was so different. It felt good to be in nature."

After Nunez completed OYC with her sister, she organized a group to paint a mural on a neglected building, pick up trash in a park and plant trees in Mendota.

"In OYC, I learned that nowadays kids tend to just focus on the Internet, phones and stuff like that instead of making a difference in our communities," Nunez said. "There are a lot of things we can do if we organize." 🌲

A photograph of a man in a green jacket and blue jeans carrying a young child on his shoulders. They are standing in a forest of tall redwood trees. The man is looking up at the trees, and the child is also looking up. The forest floor is covered in ferns and fallen leaves.

5 Ways You Can Help Save Redwoods

Photo: Paolo Vescia

SUPPORT

Proposition 21, the new measure to save California State Parks.

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.

**To learn more, visit
[SaveTheRedwoods.org/help](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/help),
or call us at
(888) 836-0005.**

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](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/give) or call us at (888) 836-0005.

Protect Redwoods for the Future

Your future gift through your will, trust or retirement account or life insurance beneficiary designation to Save the Redwoods League will help ensure the future of redwood forests and has several tax advantages. For more information, contact Sharon Rabichow at (888) 836-0005 or srabichow@SaveTheRedwoods.org.

Onto the Trail

Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve

“My favorite redwood memories are of visiting the tallest trees in the world with my wife. We visited Redwood National Park on our honeymoon. We have since visited the tallest tree in Montgomery Woods. Hiking in the redwoods continues to be an important part of our relationship.”

—Roger, member since 1987

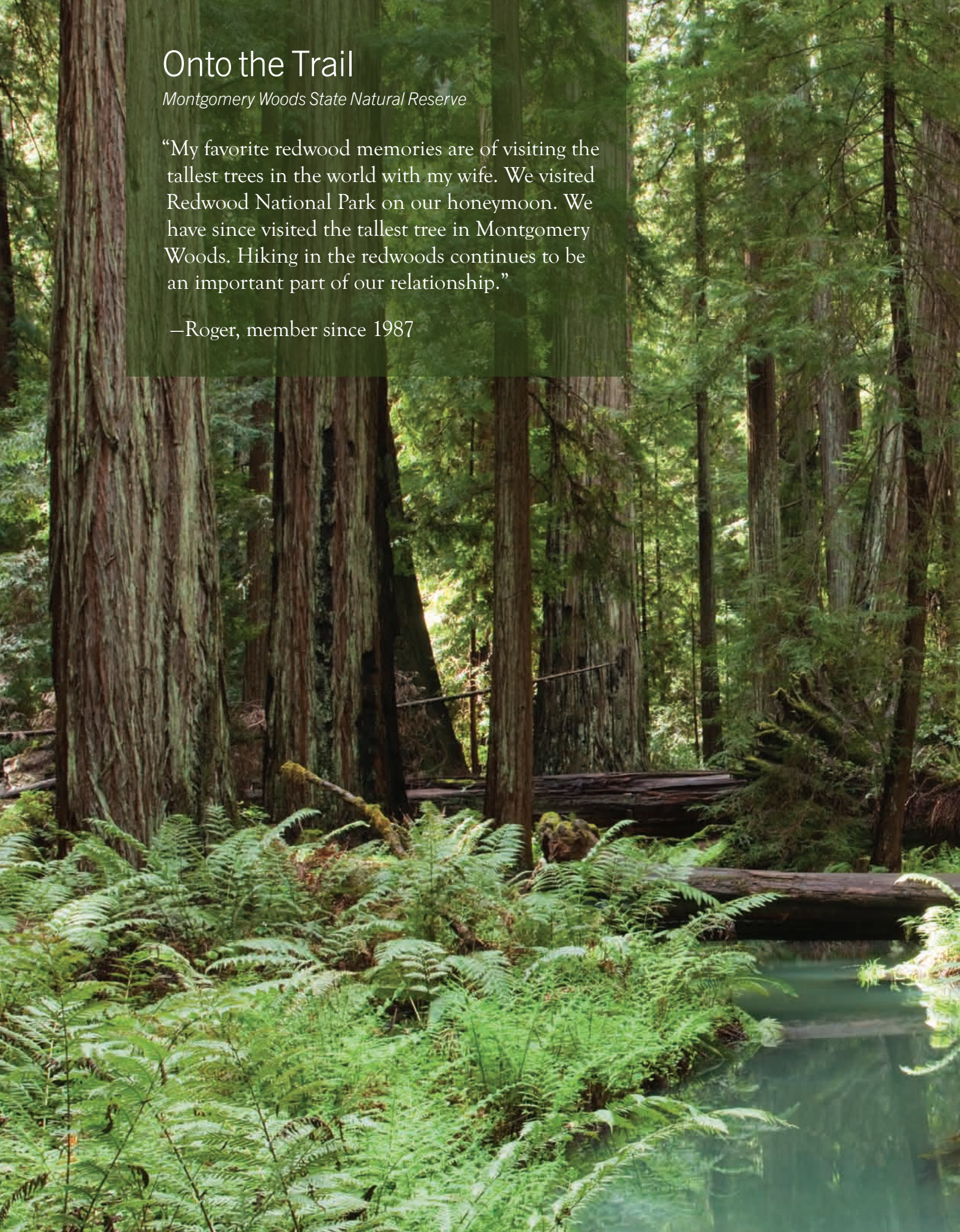




Photo: Peter Buranizon



114 Sansome St Suite 1200
San Francisco CA 94104
SaveTheRedwoods.org

DONE READING
THIS NEWSLETTER?
PASS IT ON!

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CONCORD, CA
SAVE THE REDWOODS



Printed on paper containing 30 percent post-consumer recycled fiber. Paper also is certified to Forest Stewardship Council standards, which promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



New on SaveTheRedwoods.org

Free redwoods e-cards by winners of our K–12 art contest; downloadable audio tour for the 50th anniversary of the Avenue of the Giants; 14 more redwood park profiles on our interactive map in September; 2010 photo contest winners in October.