

Summer Bulletin '13

SHADY DELL: YOU CAN CREATE A TRAIL IN PARADISE



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.

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Cover image: Scores of astounding ancient redwoods shaped by salty air and strong coastal wind await you at Shady Dell — a forest you helped purchase. But first we need your help to begin restoration of this forest damaged by decades of logging. *Learn more on page 5.*

Left image: You can help close the fundraising gap to protect spectacular Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains. *Learn more on page 9*.

The Bulletin newsletter is published twice a year (in the winter and summer) for friends of Save the Redwoods League.



Dear Save the Redwoods League Friends,

"To some it might appear that, having accomplished what will be considered one of the greatest pieces of conservation work in America, the Redwoods League might not have a place of as great importance in the future as that occupied during the past decade. But it is a common thing to look upon acquisition as the highest type of activity. As a matter of fact, this is only preparation for the great work of use for what has been acquired."

--"The Tasks Ahead of the Save the Redwoods League" A message to members from the League's President, Dr. John C. Merriam, 1934

These words are as applicable today as when Merriam penned them. As the League continues to purchase key pieces of the iconic redwood forest, we know that each acquisition is the start of preserving that land and managing its long-term use.

We face many decisions for every piece of forestland that you help to protect. Is a trail needed? How do we prevent admirers from trampling trees' roots? What was the climate like here 1,200 years ago? What animals have lived here? Will we transfer this land to an organization, or will we care for it?

As you can see, with each acquisition the League must raise much more than the purchase price. These additional sums are essential to protect the forest, to make it accessible to you, to restore it or study it – or all of these.

One such place is Shady Dell. You helped us buy this amazing forest. Now we must begin the work of caring for it and opening it to you. Please learn more on the next page.

Thank you so much for all you do for the redwood forest.

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Harry Pollack Chief Operating Officer and Secretary Pollack formerly served as the League's Chief Program Officer. He continues to serve as General Counsel.

"Save the Redwoods League" is a registered service mark of Save the Redwoods League. If you have questions about *Bulletin* content, please call our membership department at (415) 820-5800, email membership@SaveTheRedwoods.org, or send us a note in the attached envelope.

SHADY DELL'S NEEDS

Erosion prevention Salmon habitat improvement Invasive species removal Trail construction

Restoration

YOU CAN CREATE A TRAIL IN PARADISE

Your gifts helped buy the amazing Shady Dell forest. Now you can help mend it and open its gates to the public.

After a winding 35-mile drive north of Fort Bragg on Northern California's remote craggy coast, you reach a hidden road. Beyond it, shrouded in fog, beckons **a magical redwood** forest fit for the set of a fantasy movie.

On the 957-acre Shady Dell that you helped purchase, rugged cliffs descend to black-sand beaches lashed by the white froth of the Pacific. Sword ferns, moss and lichens blanket the forest in green. Delicate orchids and trilliums accent the duff. The silence is so profound it's as if the forest is holding its hands over your ears.

And then you reach a place beyond belief. Down a steep slope stand scores of ancient redwoods shaped into grand candelabras by fire, salty air and coastal winds. Instead of growing into massive straight columns, stressors caused these trees to sprout branches near the ground that droop like velvet ropes in a theater. Then when conditions improved, the branches grew straight up.

For more than 100 years, this forest was a private, hidden treasure. Your generous gifts enabled Save the Redwoods League to purchase Shady Dell and plan its restoration. Now we're working to open its wonders to you.

But first **Shady Dell needs work. Logging in the 1800s, 1950s and 1980s damaged this landscape**. Before logging, this land embraced giant redwoods, clear streams and diverse, native plants and animals, including now-imperiled salmon, northern spotted owls and birds called marbled murrelets. These animals depend on ancient forest habitat. Our vision is to help restore the forest features they need. "I think restoration of damaged habitats is the next big wave of the conservation movement. The amount of damaged habitat is practically unlimited. Preserving pristine habitat is playing defense, in that it saves something that was already there. Restoring damaged habitats is playing offense, in that it adds to the total of preserved land."

You helped purchase the Shady Dell forest and its candelabra-shaped ancient redwoods in 2011. Now we need your support to build a trail and remedy problems such as erosion and invasive species. This forest is at location 2 on the map on page 11.

Dennis Farney, League Member, Missouri

Restoration

Helping Heal the Forest

One challenge at Shady Dell is erosion. "Rainwater normally runs through the duff and percolates through the soil," said Todd McMahon, League consultant, forester and expert on the area. Unpaved Usal Road winds through the forest, capturing and accelerating water and dumping sediment into Shady Dell's streams. Logging roads and landslides also have caused tons of sediment to flow into the forest's creeks.

More fish in the salmon family ("salmonids" such as coho and steelhead) once relied on the creeks here. But sediment has buried much of the gravel where the fish used to lay their eggs. Logging removed trees that would have fallen into the streams, creating pools in which fish escape fast currents and hide from predators. **Such habitat loss throughout the redwoods' range has pushed salmonids to the brink of extinction.** In turn, the forest suffers from salmonid loss because the trees depend on nutrients they draw from the fishes' bodies after they spawn and die.

To fix these erosion problems, **the road must be reshaped** to reduce the flow and velocity of water, and sediment that eroded from the logging roads into the streams must be removed, McMahon explained.

Top image: Forester Todd McMahon and Christine Aralia, League Land Project Manager, check out a streambed buried under tons of sediment that eroded from the logged Shady Dell forest. Erosion and sediment buildup need to be fixed for the forest to regain its health. Middle image: Invasive ivy envelops trees in the background at Shady Dell. Invasive plants must be removed because they crowd out native plants that animals need. Bottom image: Native fairyslipper orchids dab the Shady Dell forest floor with color.



Restoration

Another **problem, for salmonids**, is a culvert that altered the course of Shady Dell Creek, creating a **maze of shallow channels** that makes it hard for the fish to find their way to their spawning area upstream. **A remedy is to replace the culvert with a bridge.**

"A bridge would reverse the unnatural stream conditions created by the culvert and create a channel more conducive to fish passage," McMahon said.

An additional challenge is the dense groups of trees that grew after logging, competing so much with each other for light, space, water and nutrients that most will remain small. **One solution to speed the growth of bigger trees is to remove some of the small competing trees.**

"This will accelerate the development of ancient forest conditions that provide beneficial habitat for imperiled wildlife species such as the northern spotted owl," said McMahon's colleague Tom Smythe, a League consultant and forester.

A Path to Awe

In addition to restoration, the plan includes **a trail to lead visitors through the best parts of Shady Dell**. Louisa Morris, Director of Conservation and Trail Programs at Mendocino Land Trust, is working with the League to lead the project.

"Creating a trail that will take people to the spectacular features of this forest is really exciting," Morris said. The trail will **add 2-3 miles to the Lost Coast Trail**, fabled for leading hikers north through neighboring Sinkyone Wilderness State Park and beyond.

Now Shady Dell doesn't have official trails, and it's not ready for the public. Morris' goal is for the trail to lead visitors along the towering cliffs and through the stand of candelabra trees. Planning and construction will likely take three years.

"The candelabra trees are unforgettable," she said. "You've never seen redwood trees like these. My vision for the trail is that you'll come around and suddenly, there they will be. It will be magical." "The candelabra trees are unforgettable – you've never seen redwood trees like these. My vision for the trail is that you'll come around and suddenly, there they will be. It will be magical."

– Louisa Morris, Trail Planner

Volunteer to Help Redwood State Parks

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

You Can Restore Shady Dell

We've raised \$5.75 million to protect and restore Shady Dell; **you can help close the \$250,000 gap**. Your gifts will help heal this land for current and future generations to enjoy and make the forest a better home for imperiled wildlife. Please learn more and give today through our secure webpage, **SaveTheRedwoods.org/ShadyDell**, call (888) 836-0005 or use the attached envelope. Thank you.

Community

New Leader of Historical Partnership

Save the Redwoods League and California State Parks have worked together to protect parklands for some 90 years. So it's not too surprising that the new California State Parks Director, Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), met with the League's Board of Councillors during his third week on the job late last year.

Jackson comes from the U.S. Marine Corps, for which he managed seven bases and supervised ecologists, other scientists and a police force.

His new job is similar to his old one, he said. "Marines come with a lot of passion," he said. "I find the same sort of passion in the people who work in the parks system. Probably the most critical similarity is, all organizations are hungry for leadership. The parks department needs good leadership that everybody can trust."

Jackson said that he was dedicated to the parks system before he took his new job.

"I love the California state parks," he said. "And I bought an RV in January (2012) as "I said to Save the Redwoods League that I'm truly committed to preserving California's natural resources."

 Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), New California State Parks Director



New California State Parks Director, Major General Anthony L. Jackson, USMC (Ret.), left, continues his organization's 90-year relationship with the League. He's pictured here with Jim Larson, League Board of Directors' President.

a retirement gift to myself and my wife. We figured we would mark every state and national park in California in it, and we have put nearly 10,000 miles on it."

During his League meeting, Jackson gave the League's Board confidence that his decisions will be in

the long-term interest of California state parks, the home of most of the

redwood forests you and the League have protected.

The League will continue to work with California State Parks to make the park system viable.

Conservation

Make a Difference for 2 Ancient Forests



Thanks to redwoods enthusiasts like you, Save the Redwoods League has raised more than **\$4 million** — over half the funds needed **to purchase and protect some of the most magnificent old-growth redwood forest still left** in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Last December, the League had a rare chance to purchase the stunning Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest and protect a second property — Boulder Creek Forest — through a conservation agreement. Given their proximity to a huge metropolitan area, both properties faced the risk of development.

The total cost to purchase and protect these properties is \$8 million. So far, dedicated League members and the forest owners have donated funds, and the League received a generous grant of \$1.75 million through the Living Landscape Initiative Challenge Grant program of Resources Legacy Fund, funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Our project partner, Peninsula Open Space Trust, has also pledged \$1.125 million, leaving **a gap we must close by December 2013**.

"These old-growth groves are magnificent. This project is perfect for what the League does best — permanently protecting our natural treasures for everyone to enjoy," said Gary Knoblock, Program Officer at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

We need your help to protect the giants of Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest and Boulder Creek Forest. These forests are at location 4 on the map on page 11.

Your Gifts Secure Match for Parks Improvements

After a scenic three-hour drive north of San Francisco, you'll reach ancient redwoods surrounding a canyon cut by the blue-green Eel River. Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area offers your first chance along Highway 101 to walk and sleep among giant redwoods and swim in a wild, cool river.

In 1922, generous donations from Save the Redwoods League members like you created this haven.

Recently, your League gifts have helped obtain matching funds for essential operating expenses and infrastructure projects here and at two other amazing redwood parks that faced closure: Portola Redwoods and Hendy Woods. Totaling \$130,000, your donations helped protect your investments in these parks by covering operational shortfalls and funding development of business plans to put each park on a firm financial foundation.

These parks will receive more than \$1 million from the State Parks and Recreation Fund and additional matching funds from California Assembly Bill 1478 to **improve water systems**, **campsites, shelters, bridges** and more. S. D. Bechtel, Jr., Foundation and the Resources Legacy Fund also generously supported this parks work.

We are continuing to work with California State Parks staff and these partners:

- at Portola Redwoods with Peninsula Open Space Trust and Portola and Castle Rock Foundation
- at Hendy Woods with Hendy Woods Community
- and at Standish-Hickey with Mendocino Area Parks Association and Team Standish

Your gifts are making a difference in these redwood parks and others. One hundred percent of donations entrusted to us for our Parks Crisis Fund will be used for operational shortfalls and/ or enhancements at **Grizzly Creek**, **Hendy Woods**, **Mill Creek**, **Portola** and **Standish-Hickey**.

You can continue to support these and other state parks projects by giving a gift on our secure website, **SaveTheRedwoods.org/Crisis**, or you may use the attached envelope. Together, we can help make California Redwoods State Parks sustainable.

REDWOOD GROVES DEDICATED

DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK

LYDIA AND BOB JOHNSON MEMORIAL GROVE

HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK

EASTON-ERVIN-CRISLER-DILDAY FAMILIES MEMORIAL GROVE

LIMEKILN STATE PARK WILKE AND LUKASKO FAMILY GROVE JUNE 15, 2012–JUNE 14, 2013

PFEIFFER BIG SUR STATE PARK

GEORGE AND NINA TRAUB FAMILY GROVE

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK FAMILY OF HENRY AND IMELDA JAMES

PURISIMA CREEK REDWOODS OPEN SPACE PRESERVE

M. BETTY WILLIAMS MEMORIAL GROVE

Honor Your Loved Ones

You can dedicate a special place in the forest to friends, family or an organization by contacting our Major Gifts Officer, Megan Ferreira, at (415) 362-2352 or mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org.

Conservation

The Impact of Your Support



Recently, your gifts helped keep open and improve 5 redwood state parks that faced closure

THIS PROTECTED LAND SAFEGUARDS ...





YOU CAN SAVE THE WONDER OF THESE FORESTLANDS

The orange-numbered forests on the map require your support for restoration and/or work to make them available to the public. Please donate through our secure website at **SaveTheRedwoods.org/ RedwoodLandFund**. To continue to support the parks identified in blue, visit **SaveTheRedwoods.org/Crisis**. Alternatively, you may use the attached envelope. Thank you for your generous gifts.

Redwoods State ParksProjects that stillIMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAYNEED YOUR HELPAMILL CREEK1BGRIZZLY CREEK2CSTANDISH-HICKEY3DHENDY WOODS4EPORTOLA5CCEMEX REDWOODS

Learn more at SaveTheRedwoods.org.

Education

Building a Gateway to Wonder

Every spring and fall, hundreds of sixth-grade students are immersed in science and nature education through the Santa Teresita Youth Conference Center in Three Rivers, near ancient giant sequoia groves. **Your generous gifts will help build the next generation of scientists and forest champions here by providing them access to the magnificent neighboring trees.**

At the center, students spend several days participating in outdoor classes and activities. Environmental educators teach the youths about subjects such as birds, insects, geology, astronomy, blue oaks and soon, giant sequoias. Santa Teresita sits at the foot of Case Mountain, home to the sequoia groves; but the students can only see the trees from a distance. A private property called Craig Ranch lies between the youth center and Case Mountain, hindering public access to the sequoias.

Save the Redwoods League is working with Sequoia Riverlands Trust and the Bureau of Land Management to acquire Craig Ranch and provide easy access to the majestic ancient trees. The designer of the camp program, Monsignor John Greisbach, said that if the students could visit the sequoias, they would be able to learn about the special trees – including how to protect them. In addition to acquiring the property, we plan to help create Santa Teresita's giant sequoia curriculum.

Programs like these that educate, excite and bring kids to the redwoods — often for the first time — are inspiring future caretakers who will protect our redwood forests and, in turn, encourage others to do the same. Thanks to your thoughtful support, hundreds of students will find awe and inspiration among the sequoias for many years to come.

This page: Your support will allow students to reach these towering giant sequoias. Opposite page: Leopard lilies bloom in the redwood forest in June and July.





DONATE

to Save the Redwoods League.

PLAN

a gift in your will for Save the Redwoods League.

TALK

to your friends about the League's work. **VISIT** the redwood forest with your friends

and family.

EXPLORE

volunteer opportunities in redwood parks.

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

The Many Ways to Give to the Redwoods

Gifts of any amount support the work of Save the Redwoods League to protect the forests we all love! For more information or to donate, visit our secure site, **SaveTheRedwoods.org/give**, or call us at (888) 836-0005.

Renew Your Membership, \$25. Continue to be a hero for the redwoods! You'll continue to get your *Bulletin* and invitations to members-only events.

Plant a Seedling, \$75. Have a seedling planted in a California redwood park in honor of an individual or organization or in memory of a loved one.

Dedicate an Honor Tree, \$1,000–\$15,000. Select and dedicate a redwood in one of our honor groves.

Dedicate a Grove in honor or memory of a loved one: \$25,000–\$1 million. Mark important occasions such as births, weddings and anniversaries with these unique, timeless and tangible gifts.



Onto the Trail Grove of the Old Trees Occidental, California

Support from League partners and members like you helped protect this beautiful stand in 2000. Two short trails make this forest great for families. Get trip tips about this redwood park and 42 others in our Redwoods Finder Interactive Map at SaveTheRedwoods.org/maps.



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If you must print this electronic version, please help conserve our forests by reusing paper or choosing recycled, chlorine-free paper made from postconsumer waste.

New Photo Contest and Parent's Guide

On SaveTheRedwoods.org, you can

- enter your redwood forest shots in our photo contest by July 31 for a chance to win fabulous prizes!
- get the free Parent's Guide to the Coast Redwoods
- give your opinion on this Bulletin for a chance to win an insulated League lunch bag
- join our social media communities

A clouded orange sulphur butterfly alights at our Cape Vizcaino property.

