

**GET ON BOARD!**  
Protect Rare Noyo Giants  
from Imminent Harvest



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: Skunk Train passengers view rare, ancient giants on the Noyo River Redwoods property. The League needs your help to purchase them by April 2011, or they will be cut down. Photo by Julie Martin*

*Left: This coast redwood is among ancient giants on the 426-acre Noyo River Redwoods property.*



**Dear Save the Redwoods League Friends,**

As you may know, Save the Redwoods League is racing to purchase 426 acres harboring some of Mendocino County's last old-growth redwoods by April, or they will be felled. You may have visited this forest while riding the Skunk Train. I love the thrill of riding to the property on the train, cresting the ridge and dropping into the cool redwood forest. You may read about this project on page 4. I hope you can join us in saving this unique piece of California.

You may have heard that voters last November rejected Proposition 21, the measure to provide stable, adequate funding for California state parks. While the defeat was deeply disappointing, the diverse coalition of more than 700 organizations that supported the measure has built a movement we can expand. We thank our allies and those of you who gave your support to this campaign. Helping to ensure stable funding for state parks remains a League priority because more than 150,000 acres of redwoods live in these sanctuaries created with gifts from generations of our members. As we continue to protect redwoods, the coalition will advocate for protecting state parks, wildlife and other natural resources.

Meanwhile, with your contributions, the League completed a major project to protect redwoods, a creek and the forest landscape and improve access at Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve. You may read about this accomplishment and others starting on page 9. Thank you for your vital support in conserving our living heritage.

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "Ruskin K. Hartley". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ruskin K. Hartley Executive Director

“When we come out here 10 years from now and see the forest, we’ll be happy this sale has happened, and this will be available for a long time.” –Chris Baldo, Co-Owner, Willits Redwood Company

Photo by Julie Martin



*These Noyo River Redwoods live along the route of the historic Skunk Train. Among them are giants marked for felling.*

# Protection

## Get on Board: Protect Rare Giants from Imminent Harvest

See Remote Noyo River Redwoods from Historic Skunk Train

The April 1, 2011, deadline is fast approaching for Save the Redwoods League to purchase the 426-acre Noyo River Redwoods property, or else acres of giants will be felled. We need your support to reach our goal of \$3.5 million from our members and the public to purchase and protect this property. The purchase price is \$7 million, and stewardship, management and project costs will total another \$500,000. As of this printing, we had raised just over \$3 million of our \$3.5 million private fundraising goal. Check [SaveTheRedwoods.org/Noyo](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/Noyo) for updates.

Last fall, we launched the fundraising campaign to purchase this property because the project would protect old-growth redwoods, water quality and wildlife habitat — high priorities according to our science-based Master Plan. The Noyo River Redwoods are among the last surviving old giants in an environmentally important Mendocino County watershed. Only 1 percent of the original old redwood forest in the watershed still stands, and 30 percent of that grows on the property that faces harvest. The Mendocino Coast region has the fewest ancient redwood stands in the coast redwood range because of more than 100 years of timber harvesting and less conservation activity.

### The First Cuts

The Noyo River Redwoods property was first harvested by homesteaders in the late 1800s. Harvesting resumed in 1910, when the rail line reached east from Mendocino Coast sawmills to the town of Willits. Although harvests continued in the 1960s and 1970s, 123 acres of old-growth redwood stands remain. Now the rail line (dubbed the Skunk Train because people smelled the engines coming in the early days) is known for hauling thousands of tourists through the redwood forest. Many passengers experience redwoods up close for the first time.

“For some people, it’s overwhelming,” said Robert Pinoli, Skunk Train Owner. “You have redwood trees that

are 250 to 300 feet tall towering over you. Tourists often step on the train as passengers and step off as conservationists.”

More than 6 miles of Skunk Train track snake through the Noyo River Redwoods west of Willits, revealing remote giants, some 1,000 years old.

After purchasing the property, the League plans to create a land preservation agreement and eventually transfer the acreage to a local land trust, a permanent steward. Permanent protection would allow scattered old and younger tree stands to grow into a larger old-growth forest. Restoration of the property’s forest and river habitat is in our plans as well.

## Benefitting Woods, Water, Wildlife

Protecting this forest would help sustain the fragile redwood ecosystem to benefit people and a wide variety of plants and animals now and in the future. For example, our purchase of the property with your help would provide the opportunity to restore headwater habitat for coho salmon in the Noyo River, which runs through the property. Habitat restoration could include, among other methods, adding large woody debris to the river to create pools that would shelter fish from predators and fast currents.

From sky to stream, the Noyo River Redwoods project will either provide or has the potential to provide habitat for dozens of wildlife species ranging from bald and golden eagles to northern red-legged frogs. The same goes for 18 imperiled plant species, such as the Humboldt milk-vetch and coast lily.

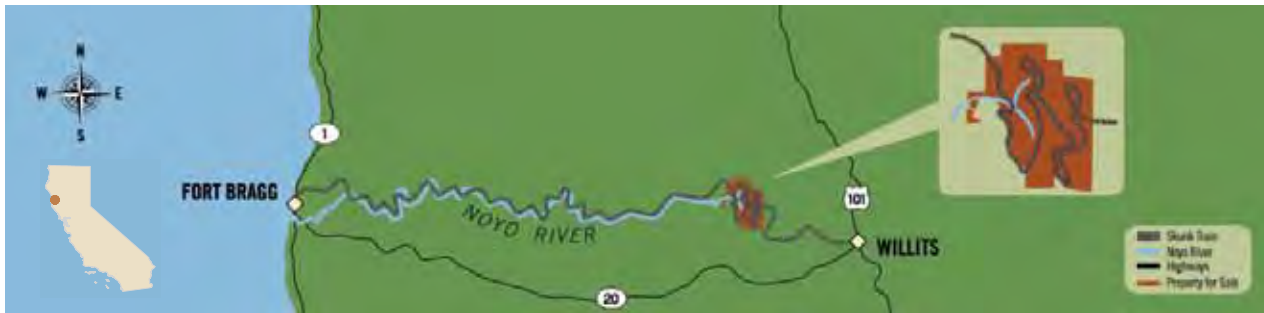
## Timber Harvest Plan

The owner of the Noyo River Redwoods property, Willits Redwood Company (WRC), specializes in milling ancient redwood. WRC acquired the property in 2007 and received a Timber Harvest Plan permit in 2009 from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). While protecting some of the old-growth redwood stands along stream corridors, the permit allows



Photo by Julie Martin

*Noyo River Redwoods reach sunward.*



### Give, Learn More about Noyo River Redwoods

Your help is essential to protect the Noyo River Redwoods. Please give today: Call (888) 836-0005, mail your gift in the attached envelope, or visit our secure Web page through [SaveTheRedwoods.org/Noyo](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/Noyo). Visit this Web page to follow our fundraising progress, spread the word online and take our virtual video tour.

the harvest of about 40 percent of the ancient redwoods on the property.

The League learned about the property from Mendocino County residents who had wanted to protect the land for decades because of its old redwoods and location at the Noyo River headwaters. The citizens asked the WRC owners if they would talk with the League about selling the property. League staffers toured the land and discussed purchasing options. After WRC received approval for its harvest plan, three environmental groups and two local citizens filed a notice to appeal WRC's harvest permit, and began months of discussions with the landowners about options to

protect the forest. In April 2010, the citizens dropped their appeal in return for WRC agreeing not to harvest for one year while the company worked to sell the property to a conservation group. The League secured an independent appraisal of the property and agreed with local conservationists that 2010 was the time to act. Last July, the League entered an agreement with WRC to purchase its land by April 2011.

"This is an urgent and critical situation in which the public will play a vital role," said Ruskin K. Hartley, League Executive Director. "We need public support to save these increasingly rare treasures."

In the end, this purchase would benefit all stakeholders: Local conservationists would achieve their goal of protecting ancient trees; WRC would receive a fair price for its land; the League would complete this purchase through its usual nonconfrontational negotiations process; and the ecosystem would remain intact for people and wildlife. †

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**"We need public support to save these increasingly rare treasures."**

— Ruskin K. Hartley, League Executive Director

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### Help Us Focus on Protecting Redwoods

Having donors we know we can count on allows us to concentrate on protecting and restoring redwood forests. Please donate today or join our Evergreen Society with a gift of \$5 or more, and the amount you designate will be automatically deducted from your credit card each month, quarter or year. Use the attached envelope, call (888) 836-0005, or visit our secure Web site at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/give](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/give).

# Community

## Taking Action for Sonoma Coast Redwoods

Patty and Peter Mattson, Save the Redwoods League members, turned their love for redwoods and the Sonoma Coast into action recently. The food-industry entrepreneurs generated awareness and support for League projects in Sonoma County, which has little old-growth left compared to other regions in the redwoods' range.

In 2010, the Mattsons organized a public forum in their beloved Sonoma County community of The Sea Ranch. Two hundred attendees learned about the League's 2010 Jenner Headlands and Stewarts Point projects, among others. After the forum, the Mattsons hosted a house party to raise funds for our Stewarts Point project.

"We wanted to support the League because it's effective in protecting redwoods," Peter said. "We're outraged by the way redwoods were logged on the north coast."

Peter's love of redwoods stems from happy childhood days at his grandparents' cabin in the Santa Cruz Mountains.



*Peter and Patty Mattson organized a public forum and hosted a fundraiser for the League.*

"We'd play in the creek," Peter recalled. "We'd sleep in a redwood grove. The whole redwood forest has a deep feeling for me."

The Mattsons' connection to Sonoma County is through Patty's grandparents, who owned a ranch near Stewarts Point. The couple visited the ranch and loved the area so much that they bought a home in The Sea Ranch.

Peter soon joined the board of The Sea Ranch Association. He said he doesn't believe in sitting around, so he joined other

nonprofit boards, including those of the Sonoma Land Trust, the Redwood Forest Foundation and the League's Board of Councillors, and has been a very involved volunteer.

For the Mattsons, protecting California's coast and redwoods from development is a priority. "Population pressures are huge in California," Peter said. "We've got to protect the coast because there's only one, and the amount of old-growth redwood forest left is infinitesimal." ♣



# Conservation

Protected,  
Thanks to Our  
Members

Photo by Peter Buranzon



Left: Potholes greeted visitors at the original Montgomery Woods trailhead. Right: The trailhead features accessible restrooms and barriers to protect tree roots from parked cars. The reserve is at location 1 on the map on page 11.

## First Round of Montgomery Woods Improvements Complete

### PROPERTY 1

A reserve harboring some of the world's tallest trees is now easier to find and enjoy. Last fall, Save the Redwoods League and California State Parks finished the first \$340,000 phase of improvements at Montgomery Woods State Natural Reserve, including new signage, improved parking facilities, new accessible restrooms and picnic tables under the giant trees. The work resulted from an extensive environmental design and review process to make the reserve more accessible while reducing impacts to the trees, creek and forest landscape.

Before the improvements, visitors bounced through potholes in the reserve's dirt lot, damaging tree roots by parking on top of them. Now, new barriers in the lot prevent damage to tree roots. By regrading the parking lot, we reduced the flow of sediment that could degrade salmon habitat in the Big River.

This work was made possible by our members' contributions to Montgomery Woods campaigns in 2005 and 2007.

Future improvements at the reserve, west of Ukiah, may include custom interpretive exhibits and consolidation of the grove trails to better protect the ancient redwoods. See more photos of the improvements at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/mw](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/mw).

With members' support, the League has grown the reserve from a 9-acre donation in 1943 to more than 2,300 acres today.

A 367.5-foot redwood here was once declared the world's tallest redwood. The reserve's other attractions include spawning steelhead and coho salmon in the Big River and a rare stand of Oregon oak. An expanse of 4- to 5-foot-tall giant chain ferns along the only trail is another beautiful feature.

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This work was made possible by our members' contributions to Montgomery Woods campaigns in 2005 and 2007.

## Protected, Thanks to Our Members *(continued)*

### PROPERTIES 2-4

Save the Redwoods League protected the Big Sur properties below 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. We also protect old-growth redwood forest and associated watersheds to sustain these fragile ecosystems and benefit wildlife and people. In addition, protecting coast redwoods in this southernmost extent of their range is important because they may be uniquely adapted to heat and drought. These adaptations are critical as redwoods face climate change.



*The League recently transferred this 40-acre property, which contains old-growth redwoods, to Los Padres National Forest.*

### **2 JULIA PFEIFFER BURNS STATE PARK — 20 ACRES**

*The League cleaned up building debris left over from a 2008 forest fire to prepare this land for donation as an addition to the park.*

**Highlights:** Purchased in 2010, this ridgetop property has a spectacular ocean view and is upslope of old-growth redwood forest along a fork of Partington Creek. The land is habitat for endangered California condors, which had been reintroduced into the wild nearby. Because young condors may mistakenly eat small metal and plastic objects, the

League had a helicopter remove 24 loads of refuse, each weighing up to 4,000 pounds, from the hard-to-access site last fall.

**Value:** \$120,000

### **3,4 LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST — 20 ACRES, 40 ACRES**

*The League transferred inholdings to the National Forest.*

**Highlights:** Both parcels are in an old-growth redwood watershed. The 40-acre property contains old-growth redwoods. An unnamed creek flows from this parcel through another property

containing old redwood forest that we purchased in 2009 for addition to the Los Padres. Before transferring the 40-acre property, we removed a cabin to return the land to a natural state. Both transferred sites are accessible via the Prewitt Creek Loop Trail. The 20-acre ridgetop property above the redwood forest features pines, grasslands and beautiful coast views.

**Value:** \$550,000 (40-acre parcel); \$120,000 (20-acre parcel).



We need your help to protect this stretch of coast and redwoods adjacent to Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Photo: © 2002-2010 Kenneth and Gabrielle Adelman, California Coastal Records Project, [www.Californiacoastline.org](http://www.Californiacoastline.org)



## Help Us Save These Redwood Forestlands

### PROPERTY 5

Save the Redwoods League is working to purchase this parcel 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](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedwoodLandFund), or send your gift in the attached envelope. Thank you!

### 5 SINKYONE WILDERNESS STATE PARK — 957 ACRES

#### Why It's a Priority

Purchase of this \$5.5 million property would expand protection of the southern end of the Lost Coast, the longest unroaded stretch of land in the 48 contiguous states. Protection of the 957 acres would extend California's Lost Coast by approximately 1 mile and facilitate realignment of the California Coastal Trail off Highway 1 and onto a more scenic route. The property is home to several sensitive and endangered species, including the northern spotted owl and steelhead trout. The land

contains the unusually shaped ancient redwoods known as the Trees of Mystery and protects Shady Dell Creek, a tributary of Usal Creek. Acquisition and transfer of this land would make it easier for the public to access and enjoy Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

This parcel is part of the Redwood Forest Foundation's larger project to conserve 50,000 acres as a working community forest that will provide environmental and economic benefits to the region. This redwood forest is between US Highway 101 and the Pacific Ocean near Fort Bragg. 🌲

### 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](mailto:vipp@parks.ca.gov), and leave your name and address to receive application forms and information about each of the parks.

# Research

## Expanding Knowledge of Redwood Ecosystems

### Study Increases Understanding of Fog, Redwood Forest Plants

Thanks to our members, Save the Redwoods League awards research grants to advance general understanding of redwoods and their related communities of organisms. This research helps determine what the trees need to thrive and how damaged forests may be restored. In 2007, Emily Limm, PhD, now the new Director of Science for Save the Redwoods League, was awarded a League grant to study how redwood forest plants take up water through their leaves. The study may prove useful in predicting how these plants may respond to climate change.

When she received the grant, Limm was a University of California, Berkeley, doctoral student. The other grantee for the project is Todd Dawson, PhD, Professor of Integrative Biology and Director of the Center for Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry at UC Berkeley.

Coast redwood forests depend on fog to survive the nearly

rainless summers of California's Mediterranean climate. It was once thought that redwoods captured this moisture through their roots. But a 2004 League-funded study proved that redwoods suck up water through their leaves as well. Intrigued

Photo by Rebecca Welch



*Emily Limm's study of redwood forest plants, including the pictured sword ferns, may prove useful in predicting how these plants may respond to climate change.*

by that result, Limm set out to discover whether other plants in the redwood ecosystem were equally adept at "foliar uptake."

She studied 10 dominant plants in the coast redwood ecosystem, including ferns, shrubs and broadleaf and coniferous trees. She found that 8 of the 10 species were able to take in water through their leaves.

Limm found that western sword fern absorbed the most moisture from fog; madrone and Douglas-fir were good at foliar uptake, too. By coating leaves with water, fog also helped these species conserve moisture.

Only two species in the study, California bay and redwood sorrel, failed the foliar uptake test.

Limm suspects the surfaces of their leaves are different. "Water easily rolls off of redwood sorrel leaves," she said. "As long as these plants have access to fog water, they will be able to stay hydrated." On the other hand, "Fewer fog events in the summer could have a huge effect."

See the list of 2010-11 research grantees and projects at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/RGrantees10-11](http://SaveTheRedwoods.org/RGrantees10-11). 🌲



# 5 Ways You Can Help Protect Redwoods

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

Photo: Patrn, Flickr Creative Commons

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### **Support the League through Your Will or Trust**

Each year League members help secure the future of the redwoods by creating a gift through their will or trust. These gifts are among the easiest to make, and they help keep precious places of peace and beauty alive for current and future generations. Contact Sharon Rabichow at (888) 836-0005 or [srabichow@SaveTheRedwoods.org](mailto:srabichow@SaveTheRedwoods.org) for information on how to name the League as a beneficiary.

### **Dedicate a Redwood Tree or Grove in Honor or Memory of a Loved One or Special Event**

Many feel that there is no more fitting tribute than a gift that protects magnificent redwoods for future generations. Dedication proceeds support the League's work, including land acquisition and reforestation. Contact Megan Ferreira at (888) 836-0005 or [mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org](mailto:mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org) for information on how dedicate a tree or grove.

# Onto the Trail

*Foothill Trail, Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park*

“In 2007, we visited Prairie Creek for the first time after visiting the Sierra and Lassen. We still loved the redwoods most. It’s just marvelous to feel nature at its most glorious. What a joy!”

—Elizabeth, member since 1980

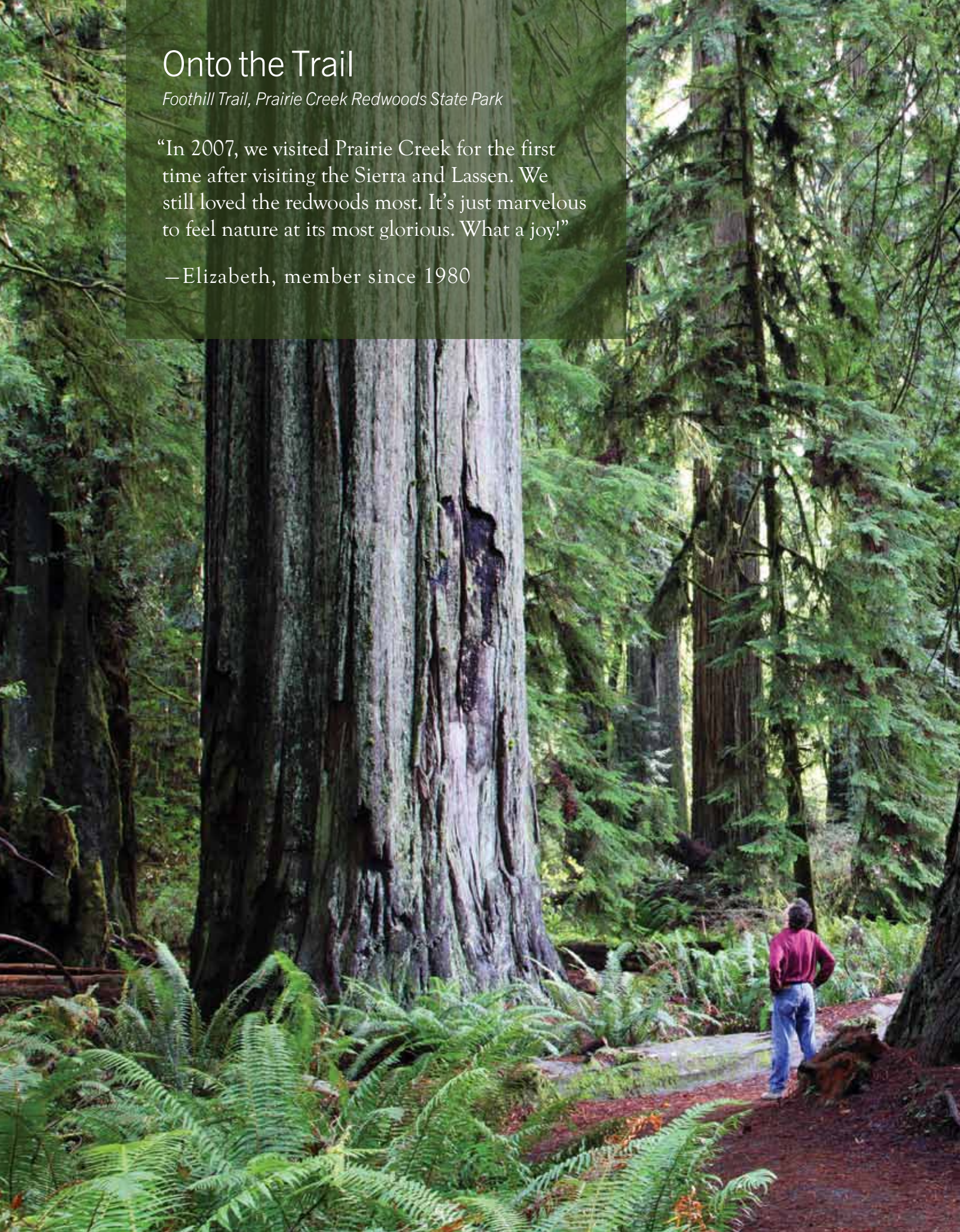




Photo by David Baselt, redwoodhikes.com



Save The Redwoods

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## New on Our Web Site: Climate Change, Free Kids' Brochures, Gear Store

See videos and photos, learn about the latest redwoods science and meet the pioneering scientists of our Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative at **Rcci.SaveTheRedwoods.org**. Giant sequoia brochures for kids in grades K–12 are free as PDFs or in print at **Education.SaveTheRedwoods.org**. Support redwoods by buying Save the Redwoods League gear from our store: **SaveTheRedwoods.org/store**.

Rare albino redwoods lack chlorophyll, the green pigment necessary for photosynthesis, so they depend on a host redwood to make their food.