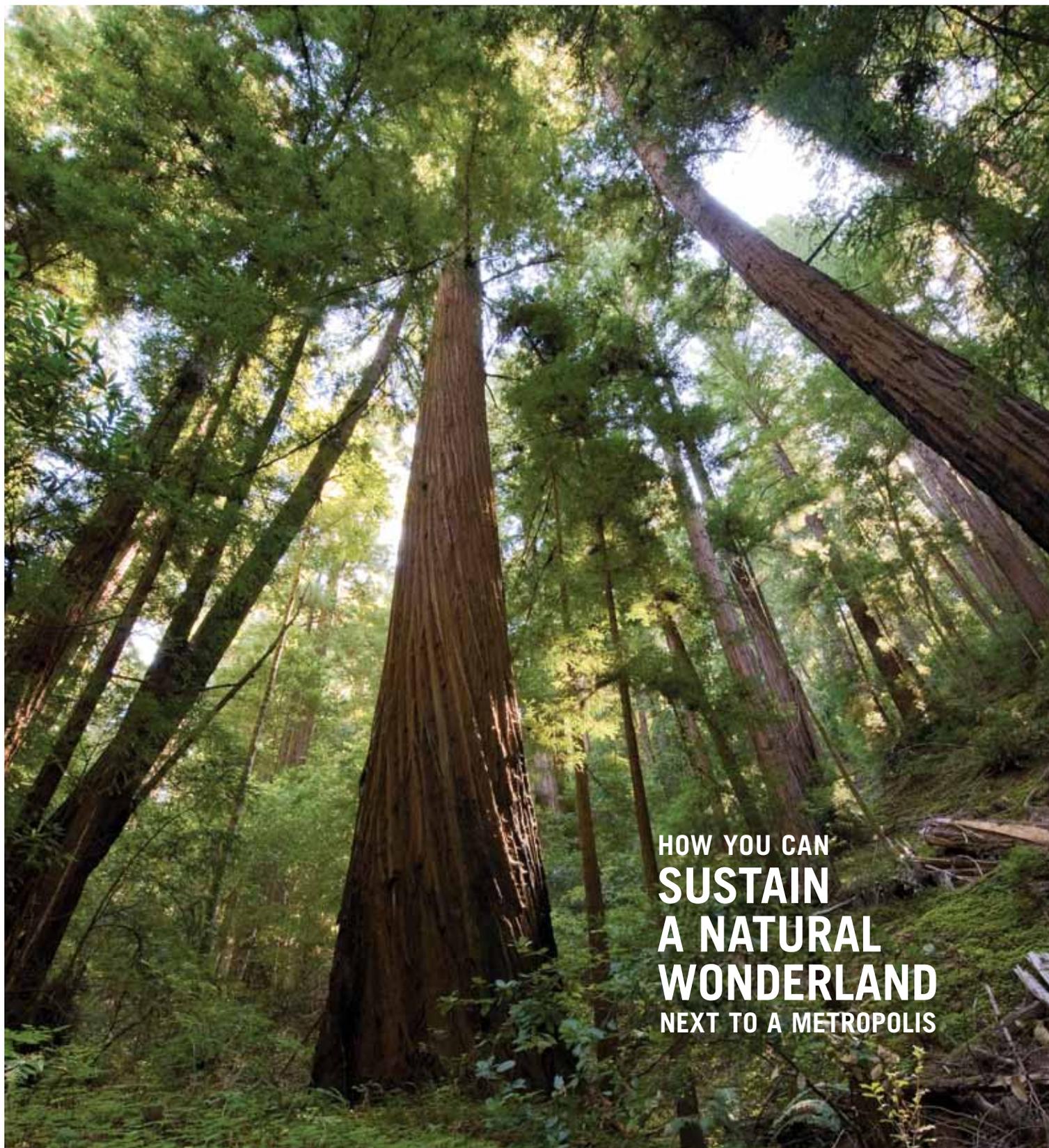




Save The Redwoods
LEAGUE®

Winter Bulletin '13



HOW YOU CAN
SUSTAIN
A NATURAL
WONDERLAND
NEXT TO A METROPOLIS



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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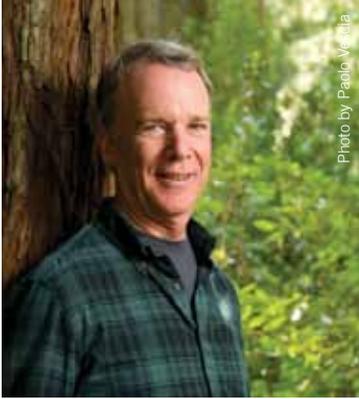
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Cover image: Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest harbors some of the last remaining unprotected ancient redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains. *Learn on pages 5 and 9 how you can help protect this forest and others in the region.* Photo by Paolo Vescia

Left image: Also in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Boulder Creek Forest is another parcel of old-growth redwood forest that we need your help to protect. *Learn more on pages 5 and 9.* Photo by Paolo Vescia

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,

You may have heard about the change in leadership at the League. Executive Director Ruskin K. Hartley resigned last year to pursue other challenges, and our Board of Directors appointed me as Chief Operating Officer, General Counsel and Secretary while they search for an Executive Director. Ruskin's dedication to the League will be missed.

I'm proud to lead an organization that you and generations of members have generously supported since the League's founding in 1918. My wife Joanne and I raised our daughters to know the coast redwoods and giant sequoias. Like all of you, each of us is humbled every time we step into one of these forests.

You may recall that the last issue of the *Bulletin* described how the League is working with other organizations to keep open four redwood state parks that were on the closure list because of California's state budget crisis. After we published the *Summer Bulletin*, state lawmakers and the governor, in response to a California State Parks funding controversy, allocated funds to help keep parks open for the next two years and match funds the League and other organizations have raised to keep these parks open. The League is continuing our commitment to help those four redwood state parks, and we are continuing to work on long-term solutions to help make the parks system sustainable for the future. While we are optimistic about the parks system's future under its new director Major General Anthony L. Jackson, UCMC (Ret.), we have been fortunate to secure other partnerships to protect and restore redwood forests; you can read about these on page 5.

This *Bulletin* focuses on our work in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains. You will learn in the following pages about these amazing forests. Please continue to join us in safeguarding them forever. Thank you for your dedication.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harry Pollack". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Harry Pollack Chief Operating Officer and Secretary

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



Protection

Larry Holmes and his brother Jim in 1974 were visiting the lush forests of the Santa Cruz Mountains near Portola Redwoods State Park. The area is only about 45 minutes from San Jose and its frenetic pace, but it feels worlds distant. Here, the brothers found a property where time stands still. The only sounds they heard were the “wake-up, wake-up” calls of the acorn woodpecker and the soothing ripple of a winding creek. It is a place thick with tanoak, delicate ferns and redwoods, many of them immense.

How You Can Sustain a Natural Wonderland Next to a Metropolis

Many Methods Advance Urgent Work in Santa Cruz Mountains

“We thought this property was so beautiful that we urged our parents to buy it with us,” Larry said. They bought the land, now called Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest, and the brothers became its devoted stewards, maintaining trails through its magical interior. In 1977, Larry’s parents bought another property near Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Although their father originally purchased these properties intending to harvest timber, the family came to love the old-growth forest on both properties, and they wanted to protect them.

Save the Redwoods League and our partner, Peninsula Open Space Trust, share the family’s wishes. Protecting these giants has been a dream of conservationists for

generations. Now we have the chance. (*Learn more on page 9.*)

A Century of Conservation

The vast beauty of the redwood forest covering the Santa Cruz Mountains has for a century motivated citizens to protect it. Their advocacy led to the 1902 establishment there of the first California state park — what is now Big Basin Redwoods State Park. Nature lovers’ fervor over this area is no wonder. The forest embraces diverse animals and plants, hidden waterfalls, clear rocky creeks, fern-covered walls, rugged canyons and vistas overlooking the blue arc of the Pacific Ocean.

Here, old giants like those in Big Basin are rare. The California real estate boom in the mid-1880s created a huge demand for lumber, resulting in the harvest of all but 5 percent of the 280,000-acre redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains. This demand left a forest where most redwoods are no more than 140 years old.

With your support, Save the Redwoods League has protected more than 15,000 acres of redwood forest and supporting land in this region since 1962, when we purchased property to add to Big Basin. The few remaining unprotected ancient redwood forest acres here could still be lost forever to logging, development and a changing environment, among other threats.

Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest is only about 45 minutes from San Jose in the Santa Cruz Mountains. You can help protect this forest forever.

Many Tools Protect the Forest

Your gifts help us protect the forest of the Santa Cruz Mountains in many ways. We can purchase the land now from willing sellers who want to protect it. Then it will be protected forever, whether the League owns it for many years or transfers it to a permanent steward such as a park system or another land trust.

Our latest project is the Santa Cruz Mountains Old-Growth fundraising effort to purchase Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest and Boulder Creek Forest.

We're using an additional tool as part of this effort: a conservation easement on Boulder Creek Forest, another old-growth redwood treasure that Larry owns. (*Learn more on page 9.*) This easement (a type of agreement) will prohibit harvesting of massive redwoods and subdivision of the land forever while Larry and his family continue to own and care for the property.

We're also using a conservation easement to protect another Santa Cruz Mountains property: CEMEX Redwoods. The agreement will ban development and permanently protect this huge redwood forest, the habitat it provides for imperiled animals and plants, and its streams that supply clean drinking water. (*Learn more on page 10.*)



REDWOODS IN THE SANTA CRUZ MOUNTAINS

-  PROPERTIES THAT NEED YOUR HELP
-  PARKS IN WHICH THE LEAGUE PROTECTED LAND
-  PROTECTED LAND



Volunteer to Help State Parks in the Santa Cruz Mountains and Elsewhere

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.

Restoration Forestry

Restoration forestry is another way we care for redwood forests that we purchase, transfer or protect with a conservation agreement.

“The goal of restoration forestry is to help a logged or otherwise altered forest resemble an ancient redwood forest quicker than it would if left alone,” said Emily Burns, PhD, the League’s Director of Science.

“At CEMEX Redwoods, for example, we will remove non-native trees and cut others to prevent catastrophic fires,” added Richard Campbell, League Conservation Science Manager. “Threatened species like marbled murrelets and spotted owls need old-growth forests for habitat. They can’t afford to wait.”

Because so few ancient redwood forests remain, much of our work in the future will involve restoring logged forests.

“Patty and I were thrilled to help protect CEMEX Redwoods. Having spent summers in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the redwoods are very special to our family. Having them preserved is a worthy legacy for us all.”

– Pete Mattson, about a \$100,000 challenge grant to the League from him and Patty, his wife. Pete, who lives near the Santa Cruz Mountains, volunteers on the League’s Board of Councillors. League members like you met the CEMEX Redwoods challenge by the Dec. 31, 2012, deadline.

Scientific Research

Scientific research is another forest protection tool the League uses. In the Santa Cruz Mountains, for example, the League with your support is funding a study to protect threatened marbled murrelets, which are seabirds that nest in ancient redwoods. Marbled murrelet chicks fall prey to Steller’s jays, which find the nests in the deep forest after scavenging garbage left by park visitors.

“The study is about finding a solution to allow people to visit the forest in a way that will still protect murrelets,” Burns said.

Another study is our Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative. Scientists are researching how climate change is affecting redwoods throughout the trees’ range so we can develop ways to protect them in the future. One of the study’s plots is in Big Basin. To learn more, visit RCCI.SaveTheRedwoods.org



You Can Make a Difference

Your support now will ensure that the wondrous redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains will live on. Please make a generous donation today by calling (888) 836-0005, using the attached envelope or visiting our secure web page: **Santa Cruz Mountains Old-Growth Fund:** SaveTheRedwoods.org/SCMF

Community

Enthusiast Supports from Afar

Redwoods have had a special place in Don Massey's heart since he was a boy. Though Massey grew up in San Diego and now lives in Virginia, he has an enduring love for redwoods and is dedicated to their preservation. An attorney and dedicated supporter of Save the Redwoods League, he is also a volunteer advisor on the League's Board of Councillors. He acts as an ambassador for the League on the East Coast. And he has arranged for his support of the redwoods to live on by dedicating a grove through his will and the League's Honor and Memorial Grove Program.

Massey fondly recalls family vacations in Sequoia National Park. Every summer his family would drive from San Diego to the park in the Sierra Nevada, and Massey looked forward to the trip all year. He recalls the anticipation of the long drive and the thrill of finally sighting the forest: "That's what you were waiting for, that first sign. The sequoias became part of my DNA."

Though Massey lives far from his beloved redwoods, he's

"The sequoias became part of my DNA. I can't get enough of them."

— League volunteer Don Massey



Virginia resident Don Massey, a League Councillor, or volunteer advisor, visits Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park.

grateful for these national treasures that everyone can enjoy. Massey rallies support for the League among his East Coast friends, and he makes a point of sharing the giant sequoia experience with his loved ones. He brought his wife Lynelle to Sequoia National Park on one of

their first trips together, and he'll bring his young granddaughter to the park for the first time this summer. "I can't get enough of it. I am always overwhelmed by the beauty, wonder and majesty of the place."

Conservation

You Can
Protect
Old Forests



Peters Creek flows past a lush wall of five-finger ferns in Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest, a property we need your help to safeguard. The forest is at location 4 on the map on page 11.

Race is on to Save 3 Magical Havens in Santa Cruz Mountains

In the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains, less than an hour's drive from the bustle of South San Francisco Bay, lie some of the most beautiful old-growth redwood forests left in the region. Save the Redwoods League has the rare opportunity 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 face the risk of development.

In Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest stand 145 acres of redwoods, including jaw-dropping old giants. This coveted land would make a spectacular addition to Portola Redwoods State Park, offering easy access to another beautiful old-growth redwood grove.

Our partner in this project, Peninsula Open Space Trust, has generously provided \$1.125 million. Thanks

to them and generous members like you, we have raised about half of the \$8 million total for purchasing this land. Please help us raise the remainder by December 2013, or we could lose forever the chance to make these ancient trees available to the public someday.

Meanwhile, we also can protect Boulder Creek Forest, a beautiful 214-acre parcel of old-growth redwood forest held by the same owners. Adjacent to Big Basin Redwoods State Park, this property would

Conservation (continued from page 9)

be safeguarded through an agreement that would prohibit harvesting of its massive redwoods and subdivision of the land.

We also need your help to protect a third property in the Santa Cruz Mountains. A short drive from South San Francisco Bay, the CEMEX Redwoods property (featured in *Winter Bulletin '12*) is the largest unprotected redwood forest in the region — 8 miles long and 3 miles wide.

This land shelters ancient redwoods and connects 27,500 acres of contiguous protected territory, providing habitat for rare

animals and plants such as the California red-legged frog.

CEMEX Redwoods needs careful restoration and permanent legal protection. We will mobilize conservation professionals and donors like you to help this magnificent forest thrive and open it to the public.

Protecting these three forests is part of the Living Landscape Initiative, an innovative effort by the League and four other conservation organizations.

Please protect these special places by donating to the Santa Cruz Mountains Old-Growth

Fund at SaveTheRedwoods.org/SCMF. Alternatively, you may use the attached envelope.

You Helped to Protect Giant Sequoia National Monument

In the wild Sierra Nevada along a remote dirt road, you'll see giant sequoias so enormous that it would take seven people holding hands to encircle just one of them. Farther down the road, you'll reach a 60-acre parcel embracing younger sequoias. With your help, Save the Redwoods League in December 2011 purchased this land containing younger trees. Recently, we sold the parcel for its fair market value to the US Forest Service, which manages Giant Sequoia National Monument. This transfer helps buffer the surrounding Monument, home of some of the Earth's largest trees. Thank you for your support!



Photo by NDomer73, Flickr Creative Commons

By supporting our work at CEMEX Redwoods, you can help provide habitat for rare animals such as the California red-legged frog.

The Impact of Your Support

RECENTLY, YOU PROTECTED ...



60 ACRES
of redwood forest
and supporting land
from development
(location 6 on map)

THIS PROTECTED LAND SAFEGUARDS ...



**CLEAN
WATER**



WILDLIFE



RECREATION



SCENERY

YOU CAN SAVE THE WONDER OF THESE FORESTLANDS

The orange-numbered forests on the map require your support for careful restoration and/or work to make them available to the public. Please donate to our Redwood Land Fund through our secure website at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedwoodLandFund](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/RedwoodLandFund), or use the attached envelope. Thank you for your generous gifts.



- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 FOUR CORNERS | 4 PETERS CREEK,
BOULDER CREEK |
| 2 SHADY DELL | 5 CEMEX REDWOODS |
| 3 NOYO RIVER REDWOODS | 6 GIANT SEQUOIA
NATIONAL MONUMENT |

- Recently protected
 - Projects that still need your help
- Learn more at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/LandProjects](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/LandProjects).

Research

Martens Rely on Ancient Forests

Humboldt martens are agile, 2-foot-long members of the weasel family that used to thrive in the coast redwood forest of California. But they have vanished from more than 95 percent of their former range. About 100 remain in Six Rivers National Forest, roughly between Crescent City and Arcata.

To expand their numbers, Humboldt martens need a way to get from their last stronghold in ancient forests to other ancient forests. But young, logged forests lie between. With your support through a Save the Redwoods League research grant, a team from the US Forest Service studied how those young forests

could be managed to regain old-growth characteristics (such as huge redwoods and diverse plants and animals) as soon as possible. The team looked at factors including shrubs and rest sites.

A dense cover of native shrubs such as evergreen huckleberry turns out to be essential for the species. “Martens are just the right size to hunt underneath that layer,” says US Forest Service Ecologist Keith M. Slauson, who led the study. That cover is degraded in clear-cut forests. But removing some young trees can bring it back in one to three decades, the researchers found.

Rest sites, another essential for martens, are typically provided by live and dead trees. But it can take more than two centuries for trees such as redwoods to develop the cavities that martens use. Practical substitutes are marten “rest boxes” like large bird boxes, which have proven successful with the European pine marten.

Given their population size, martens can’t wait a century or two for the forest to heal itself. Humans can help, Slauson said, by installing rest boxes and thinning young forests to restore shrub cover. *Thanks to your gifts, the League can use new knowledge like this to shape our conservation work.*

The Humboldt marten has almost disappeared from its range in the coast redwood forest. Because of your support, League-sponsored researchers were able to offer practices to boost Humboldt marten numbers.



Photo by US Forest Service



© Michael Nichols/National Geographic

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, or call us at (888) 836-0005.

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.

The image above from the December 2012 issue of *National Geographic Magazine* shows a giant sequoia dwarfing Steve Sillett, a scientist of the League's Redwoods and Climate Change Initiative. The magazine's cover story includes remarkable discoveries about "the President" tree by Sillett and his colleagues, who are studying how redwoods can survive sweeping environmental changes. The giant sequoia is a snow tree adapted for long winters in the Sierra, Sillett said in the magazine. But it's a fire tree too. Thick bark protects it from burning in lightning-caused fires, which open cones and clear the understory, allowing saplings to find light and prosper.

Onto the Trail

*Peters Creek Loop Trail
Portola Redwoods State Park*

“This is a cathedral, the kind of place where those who love nature get their religion,” said Tom Stienstra, writer for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. You can help the League protect the neighboring Peters Creek Old-Growth Forest, which would allow easy public access to the loop trail someday. *Learn more on page 9.*







Save The Redwoods

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New Blog, Art Contest Winners Online

On SaveTheRedwoods.org, you'll see

- the latest winners of our K–12 art contest, and you can send free ecards featuring their creations! The art on this page, by Emily of Cerritos, California, won first place in the grades 9–12 category.
- our new blog by League leaders, who offer their insights into redwood forest conservation.
- our social media updates. Join the conversation with League members like you in our Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr communities.
- a National Geographic video, photos, and an exclusive story about how the magazine featured our climate change research.

