

THE POWER OF MANY
PARTNERS LIKE YOU UNITE TO REBUILD
TRAIL THROUGH HISTORIC GROVE



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: Crew members of The Student Conservation Association move a log to build a retaining wall as part of the restoration of the fire- and storm-damaged River Trail in Humboldt Redwoods State Park last summer. Generous gifts from The Garden Club of America (GCA) clubs and their members supported work on the trail, which winds through the GCA's honorary grove. You can help reopen the trail to the public. *Learn more on page 5.*

THIS PAGE: Big River-Mendocino Old-Growth Redwoods includes this ancient redwood forest and a rare pygmy forest that face logging and development. *See page 9 to learn how you can help.*

The Bulletin newsletter is published for friends of Save the Redwoods League.



Dear Save the Redwoods League Friends,

The redwoods weren't the only inspiring sight on a trip I took last summer. Hiking in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, I met a group of students working to repair a severely damaged trail. Through this restoration project, the hard-working crew of The Student Conservation Association provided a great service to the forest and the public, while deepening their connection to nature. **The dedication of those young folks and a historic partnership between the League and The Garden Club of America will restore access to a beloved grove.** This is just the most recent chapter in a story that began in the 1930s. *You can learn more on page 4.*

Looking ahead, I hope you're as excited as I am about the projects in this new year! For instance, with your support, we can protect the **rare ancient redwood and pygmy forests at Big River-Mendocino Old-Growth Redwoods** – an incredible landscape. *On page 9, you can read about this special place.*

In addition, we'll soon be able to report on the outcome of our fundraising campaign to protect the Peters Creek and Boulder Creek old-growth redwood forests, which the Sean Parker Foundation recently supported with a \$500,000 matching gift challenge. Thank you for your help protecting these amazing places. Look for this update shortly on our website and social media channels, and in the *Summer Bulletin*.

Meanwhile, I invite you to **visit us in the League's new home** at 111 Sutter Street in San Francisco. It's an inspiring new space for our next century of protecting the forest, and we would love to give you a tour.

Sam Hodder President and CEO

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Restore

Bridging the Gap with
the Power of Many

“People have been waiting for this trail to reopen. One group of hikers actually applauded us. That felt pretty good.”

— Grace Graham, SCA Crew Member





Longtime Partners Like You Unite in Nationwide Effort to Rebuild Trail Through Beloved Historic Grove

In the lush ancient forest of **Humboldt Redwoods State Park**, you're likely to hear visitors describe this place as "uplifting," "enchanting," "epic" and "incomparable." In fact, this area's ancient forests are so magnificent that they inspired the Save the Redwoods League founders to establish the League in 1918, greatly advancing the budding conservation movement. Only three years later, our founders won protection for the first part of the park — the Bolling Grove.

Today, because of gifts from members like you, the park harbors **the largest remaining old-growth redwood forest in the world** in an area almost twice the size of San Francisco.

In the heart of the park is the 5,100-acre **Garden Club of America Grove**, the third-largest dedicated grove in California State Parks. The grove safeguards the wildlife habitat and clean water of the Canoe Creek area. Protection of this grove stemmed from the historic partnership between The Garden Club of America (GCA) and the League when the organizations purchased four parcels containing 2,552 acres. This property was formally dedicated in 1934 as The Garden Club of America Grove.

Over the next several decades, the League, GCA and California State Parks partnered to protect more priority land surrounding the initial acreage until the League secured the final piece of the grove in 1972. GCA clubs and their members were encouraged to contribute to the League to cover half of the land costs, as they had done during the initial acquisition.

Overcoming Obstacles

While the GCA Grove was protected from logging decades ago, it's been difficult for the public to explore and enjoy its towering forests. A 2003 **fire destroyed many footbridges** of the River Trail, which winds through the grove. **Landslides from storms** followed in 2006, and

Generous donations from supporters like you enabled the League, The Garden Club of America (GCA), The Student Conservation Association (SCA) and California State Parks to start rebuilding the fire- and storm-damaged River Trail in Humboldt Redwoods State Park last summer.



devastating budget cuts have prevented California State Parks from rehabilitating areas throughout the parks system.

Building on more than 80 years of partnership for redwood conservation, the League and the GCA launched the Bridge the Gap campaign in September 2013 to raise funds to reopen the GCA Grove for the public. The River Trail restoration project includes reconstructing footbridges and building retaining walls to prevent erosion.

“The GCA Grove was The Garden Club’s first nationwide conservation effort,” said GCA President Katie Heins. “I wanted the Bridge the Gap campaign to be nationwide as well.”

Just months after the campaign’s launch, Heins announced with great pride that **thanks to the generosity of GCA clubs and their members across the nation, the effort was a towering success.** By the time the campaign concluded in July 2014, the effort had far exceeded the initial goal and raised nearly \$400,000. These funds completed GCA’s share of the acquisition costs of the final land purchase in 1972 and are being used to restore and reopen the River Trail.

“It was a win-win partnership,” Heins said. “We are

delighted to see the money used to reopen the River Trail for our members and the public.”

Progress on the Trail

Last summer, another League and GCA partner joined the River Trail project. **Campaign funds supported restoration of 2.5 miles of the 6-mile trail by a six-student crew from The Student Conservation Association (SCA)**, under the direction of California State Parks. To minimize erosion and other environmental impacts, California State Parks has rerouted the trail to higher, more stable ground.

SCA crew members had the time of their lives working in the primeval redwoods, and they took great satisfaction in contributing to the project.

“The feedback we’ve been getting has been fantastic,” said crew member Grace Graham. “People have been waiting for this trail to reopen. One group of hikers actually applauded us. That felt pretty good.”

Restoration of the River Trail and enhancements of the GCA Grove Day-Use Area are on track for completion by the League’s centennial and the GCA’s annual meeting in San Francisco, both in 2018.

This campaign’s success is especially meaningful for Sam Hodder, League President and CEO.



“My family’s connection with the GCA goes back several generations, and I have long admired the GCA’s commitment to environmental conservation,” he said. “And because my career in conservation began on a trail crew, I was thrilled that we could partner with the SCA to complete the trail work. **We are so grateful to the GCA and its members for their partnership and generosity and to the SCA for the beautiful trail.**”

The League is particularly proud of this project because it aligns so well with our mission to protect and restore redwood forests, and connect today’s public with these magical places. The improved trail will allow the thousands of visitors who travel along the Avenue of the Giants the opportunity to walk in the remarkable grove that the League and GCA worked so hard to protect. Furthermore, the SCA’s participation in the project advanced League’s and the GCA’s efforts to **involve young people in conservation** so that future generations can experience the wonder of our forests.

You can help complete the River Trail project by contributing to the Humboldt Redwoods Trail Restoration Fund by mail or at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/rivertrail](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/rivertrail).

GCA President Katie Heins said the “collaborative spirit of GCA members coast to coast” is behind the River Trail project’s success. PAGE 6: Woodside-Atherton Garden Club members (shown in Portola Redwoods State Park with Sam Hodder, League President and CEO) are among the GCA clubs and their members nationwide who contributed to the campaign to reopen the River Trail through The Garden Club of America Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

OUR PARTNERS IN THE RIVER TRAIL RESTORATION PROJECT

The Garden Club of America is a national leader in supporting horticulture, conservation and civic improvement.

The Student Conservation Association builds the next generation of conservation leaders and inspires lifelong stewardship of the environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.

California State Parks is the home of 49 redwoods state parks, which include most of the redwood forest League members have protected.

Volunteer to Help Redwoods 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.

Community

For Her,
Trail Work is
'a Privilege'



Natalie Oberman swings a mattock to rebuild the River Trail in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The project was made possible by gifts to the League from The Garden Club of America and members like you.

To Natalie Oberman, the ancient redwood forest is otherworldly. "It's hard to grasp the size and age of the trees, the uniqueness of the ecosystem," she said, as she restored part of the fire-damaged River Trail in Humboldt Redwoods State Park last summer.

She was part of The Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew that worked on the trail, thanks to gifts to Save the Redwoods League from The Garden Club of America (GCA).

Oberman is part of the community of scientists, land managers, volunteers and members like you who care for redwood forests today.

For many participants like Oberman, the SCA offers a brief, physically challenging and exciting interlude in an otherwise sedentary career arc.

"It's funny, but I've discovered that I really like hard, outdoor labor," says the 24-year-old graduate of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the

State University of New York at Syracuse. "I may go back for a graduate degree, or work as a researcher. But now, I just love doing what I'm doing."

Oberman served two summers with the SCA monitoring post-logging conifer regeneration in Alaska's Tongass National Forest, and she restored habitat in the California desert.

"I just want to be outdoors, so I've enjoyed it all," she said. **"There's no other place like the redwood forest on Earth, and working here has been a real privilege."**

The River Trail runs through The Garden Club of America Grove, a magnificent ancient redwood stand protected by the GCA and the League. Read more about this partnership on page 5.

You can learn about dedicating a redwood grove or tree by calling (415) 820-5830 or visiting SaveTheRedwoods.org/dedicate.

Conservation

Rare Pygmy-
Redwood
Forest Needs
Your Support



Less than a mile from the Pacific Ocean and the town of Mendocino grows **a rare pygmy forest and an ancient redwood forest that face logging and development.**

Mendocino Headlands State Park surrounds this property embracing a dense pygmy forest of hemlock trees, bishop pine, Douglas fir, and dwarf flowering rhododendron, manzanita, azalea, Labrador tea and huckleberry. It's called a pygmy forest because the nutrient-deficient, acidic soil stunts the plants' growth. Down in the property's V-shaped canyons, the soils change as the pygmy forest gives way to **giant ancient redwoods.**

Protecting this home for imperiled species has been called out as a priority in the League's science-based Master Plan for the Redwoods.

Many redwoods are tagged for harvesting here. For now, we're headed in the right direction. Save the Redwoods League negotiated an option to purchase the **\$1.4 million Big River-Mendocino Old-Growth Redwoods, and if we raise the funds before March 2015, the forest will be safe forever.**

After you help us purchase this forest, we need to repair two old stream crossings that threaten to unleash thousands of cubic yards of sediment into adjacent Big River.

Please **donate today** to the Redwood Land Fund, our most important tool for purchasing and protecting threatened redwood forestland like this forest.

"Now we have the chance to purchase this treasure, restore it and open it to the public with your help," said Sam Hodder, League President and CEO.

You can help protect Big River-Mendocino Old-Growth Redwoods from logging and development. *This forest is at location 4 on page 11.*

Grants Advance Historic Project to Protect Vast Forest

With your support, we made a great leap forward in speeding restoration of tomorrow's beautiful old-growth groves and carbon sinks.

Save the Redwoods League, on behalf of our conservation partner organizations, **secured \$10 million from the State of California Wildlife Conservation Board and \$1.9 million from the California State Coastal Conservancy to help permanently protect San Vicente Redwoods** (formerly CEMEX Redwoods). This forest is a vast and critical part of the Santa Cruz Mountains' ecosystem.

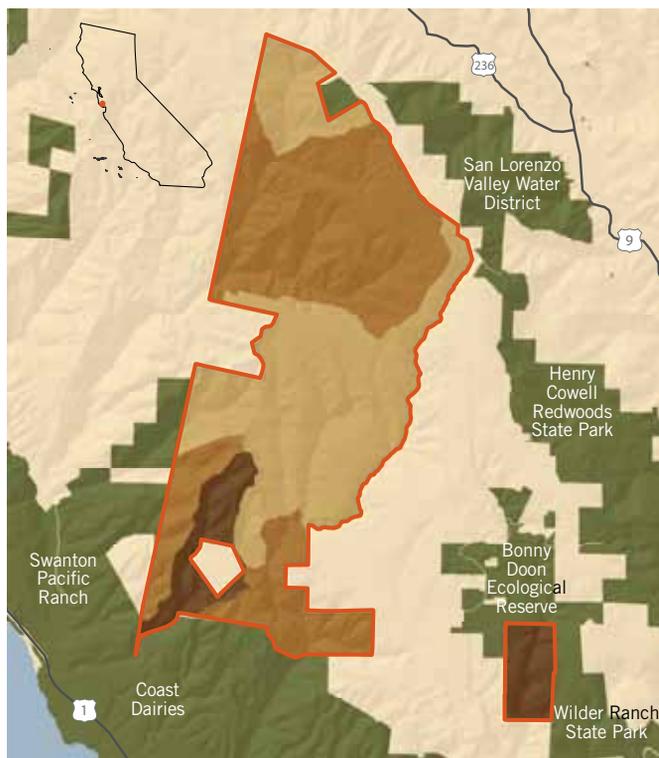
The grants are a tremendous boost toward funding this project's total cost of \$30 million. **Conservation of San Vicente Redwoods was historic because five organizations partnered to conserve the forest for multiple purposes: protection of old-growth redwood forest, forest and habitat restoration,**

sustainable timber harvesting and public recreation. Habitat restoration in the Restoration Reserve parts of the property may be funded partially through our partners' sustainable harvesting of young redwoods and other trees in the Working Forest part of the property. Restoration will speed the creation of old-growth forest characteristics, such as giant redwoods, which store huge amounts of carbon and help mitigate global warming.

The grants will help the League fund a conservation easement that now permanently protects from development San Vicente's 8,500 acres of redwood forestlands, waterways and imperiled wildlife.

Your help is still needed to fund the agreement and care for the land. Please donate today.

SAN VICENTE REDWOODS LAND USES



SAN VICENTE REDWOODS

PUBLIC LANDS

RESTORATION RESERVES
3,951 acres. These areas are to be restored to enhance aquatic habitat and speed creation of old-growth forest characteristics. Public access may be offered.

PRESERVATION RESERVES
912 acres. Home to the greatest concentration of old-growth redwoods in San Vicente, these areas will be protected from logging to recover and maintain their full potential. Public access may be offered, but these areas are difficult to reach.

WORKING FOREST
3,669 acres. Public access will be offered in these areas designated for sustainable harvesting of young redwoods and other trees, as well as protection of drinking water, rare plants and habitat for imperiled salmon and trout.

The Impact of Your Support



Your gifts are helping to protect and improve the public's enjoyment of redwood forestland in these locations and many others.

THIS PROTECTED LAND SAFEGUARDS ...



CLEAN WATER



WILDLIFE



RECREATION



SCENERY



YOU CAN SAVE THE WONDER OF THESE FORESTLANDS

Your help is crucial for protecting and restoring redwood forests and connecting current and future generations to these magical places. Please donate through our secure website at [SaveTheRedwoods.org/RedwoodLandFund](https://www.savetheredwoods.org/RedwoodLandFund). Alternatively, you may use the attached envelope. Thank you for your thoughtful gifts.

Redwoods State Parks IMPROVEMENTS UNDERWAY

- A MILL CREEK
- B HUMBOLDT*
- C HENDY WOODS
- D PORTOLA

* Described in this newsletter. Learn more about these projects and others at [SaveTheRedwoods.org](https://www.savetheredwoods.org).

Other projects that NEED YOUR HELP

- 1 ORICK MILL
- 2 SHADY DELL
- 3 NOYO RIVER REDWOODS
- 4 BIG RIVER-MENDOCINO OLD-GROWTH REDWOODS*
- 5 PETERS CREEK, BOULDER CREEK, VAN KEMPEN ADDITION
- 6 SAN VICENTE REDWOODS*

Research

Thinning Speeds Restoration



In Mill Creek forest, scientists experimented by adjusting the number of trees per acre to speed restoration of old-forest features (such as giant redwoods). The background shows patches of forest with different densities of trees.

For more than half a century, the **Mill Creek** basin in Northern California produced lumber. After clear-cutting, too many seeds were planted, producing a forest in which too many young trees competed for light, water and other resources. Now, thanks to gifts from Save the Redwoods League members, Mill Creek is protected as **part of Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park** and is becoming a **laboratory for redwood forest restoration**.

In one Mill Creek experiment funded by the League, a team from the University of California, Berkeley, set up three treatments to learn how to speed restoration of old-forest features (such as giant redwoods) in young forests. In one experiment, researchers removed enough trees to leave about 300 trees per acre. In another, they left about 600 trees per acre. In the third treatment, the control, they did not thin trees.

Four years later, **the volume of trees in the heavily thinned plot had increased by 124 percent**, versus 107 percent in the more moderately thinned plot, and 70 percent in the control plot. **“Our objective was to make the trees grow faster, so it worked well,”** said the team’s leader, Silviculture Professor Kevin L. O’Hara.

But the area’s **black bears** sometimes rip bark off young trees, killing or severely damaging them by **gnawing on the sugary cambium layer**. Researchers did not anticipate the extent of the damage. Bears attacked only 2 percent of the trees in the control, but 38 percent of the trees in thinned areas, perhaps because they could smell the sugars in the faster-growing trees.

Researchers concluded that the **risk of bears needs to be assessed before a thinning system is chosen as a restoration technique**. In areas where tree-eating bears are likely, a heavy thinning could lead to a new kind of forest degradation. In other places, heavy thinning would be the fastest, most cost-effective route to old-growth characteristics.

“Had we done the same study in Mendocino County,” O’Hara said, “I think it would have shown that thinning works well and we wouldn’t have had the bear damage. The results would have been different because bear behavior is different.”



5 Ways You Can Help

DONATE

to Save the Redwoods League.

INCLUDE

a gift in your will or trust 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

Your gifts support the work of Save the Redwoods League to protect the forests for current and future generations! For more information or to donate, visit our secure site, SaveTheRedwoods.org/give, or call us at (888) 836-0005.

Renew Your Membership, \$25. Recommit to support the forest. You will continue to receive the *Bulletin* and invitations to members-only events.

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

Dedicate an Honor Tree, \$2,500–\$25,000. Select, dedicate, and name a redwood in one of our honor groves.

Give Monthly, \$5 or more. The amount you designate will be automatically charged to your credit card. You'll get invitations to special appreciation events and the satisfaction of knowing that your gifts save us the cost of yearly requests for your support.

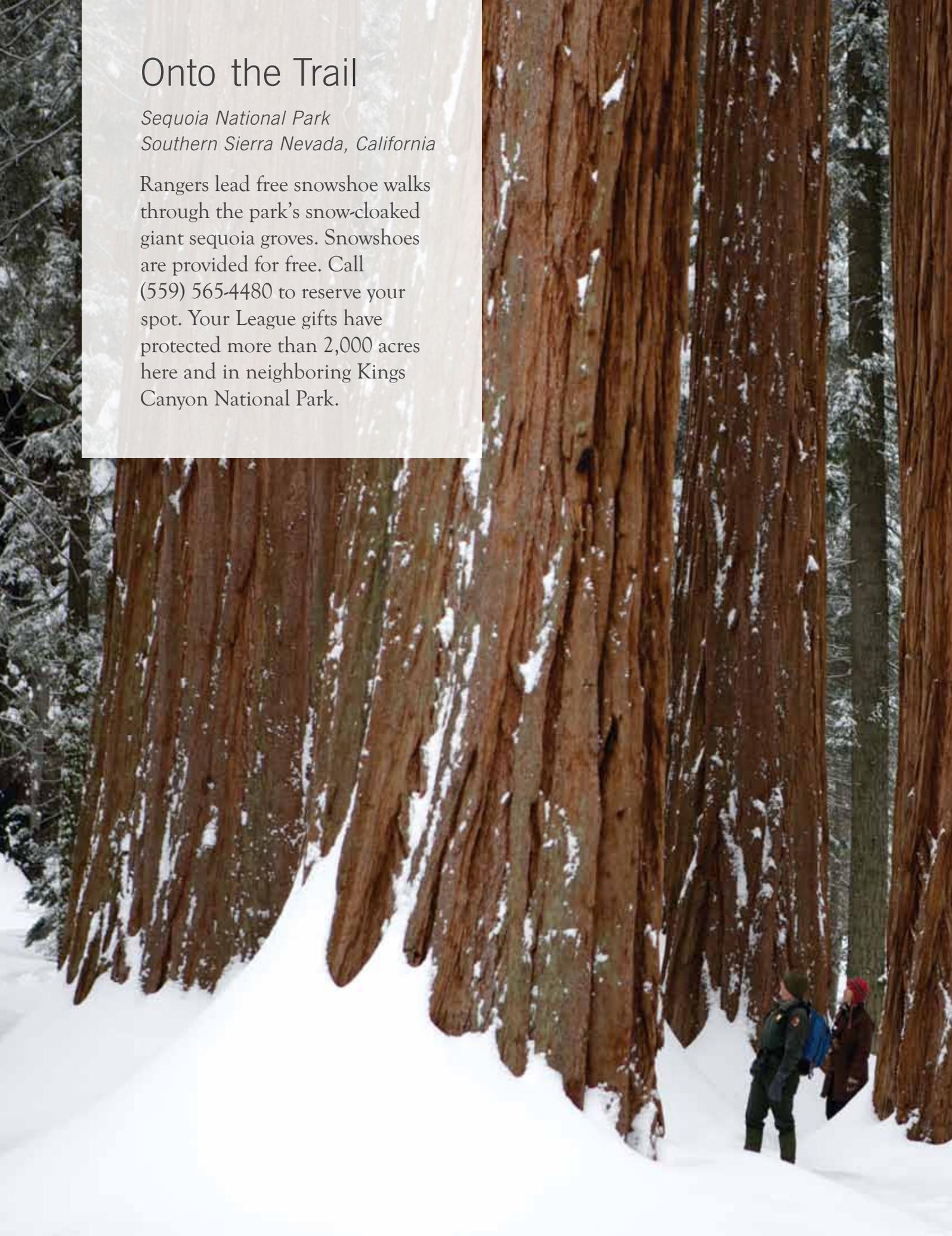
Dedicate a Grove in honor or memory of a loved one, \$35,000–\$1 million. Mark important occasions such as births, weddings and anniversaries with these unique, timeless and tangible gifts.

Join the Redwood Leadership Society, \$1,000 and higher annually. As part of a leading circle of donors, we will recognize you in our annual report and invite you to special events.

Onto the Trail

*Sequoia National Park
Southern Sierra Nevada, California*

Rangers lead free snowshoe walks through the park's snow-cloaked giant sequoia groves. Snowshoes are provided for free. Call (559) 565-4480 to reserve your spot. Your League gifts have protected more than 2,000 acres here and in neighboring Kings Canyon National Park.







Save The Redwoods

L E A G U E®

111 Sutter Street
11th Floor
San Francisco CA 94104
p 415 362 2352
888 836 0005
f 415 362 7017

info@SaveTheRedwoods.org

SaveTheRedwoods.org

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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.

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SAVE THE REDWOODS

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR NEW HOME

You're welcome to visit us in the new home of Save the Redwoods League at 111 Sutter Street in San Francisco. As a property on the National Register of Historic Places, the building is a fitting location for the organization that members like you have made an important part of the nation's history. You'll find our inspiring new space on the 11th floor. We would love to give you a tour.

