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## Fall/Winter 2022 Newsletter

### Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

President's Report: Alan Aitken

It is natural to feel that there is little that one person can do in this complicated world. Please allow me to provide the following excerpt from the title History Basic Data: Redwood National Park by Edwin C. Bearss.

“From 1918 until today, the Save-the-Redwoods-League spearheaded the movement to preserve the redwoods. In addition to direct action in land acquisition, the league played a significant role during the 1920's in the establishment of a California State Park Commission. The first unit of Humboldt Redwoods State Park was established through League efforts in 1921. With this beginning, other groups were inspired to save redwoods.”



Ordinary citizens joining together in common cause can affect their community, even the world. Your membership in HRIA supports our efforts to interpret the redwoods to visitors from around the world. A membership in HRIA is an inexpensive gift that has far reaching effects.

*Alan Aitken*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## Mission Statement

The HRIA is an educational non-profit group working in cooperation with the California State Parks at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Richardson Grove State Park, Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park, Benbow Lake Recreation Area, Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, Standish Hickey State Park, and within the North Coast Redwoods District, Eel River Sector. The mission of HRIA is to provide visitors with stimulating explanatory information on the natural and cultural history and to help visitors see these parks not only with their eyes, but also with their hearts. We lead others from mere observation to inspire in them a sense of awe in which the human spirit finds meaning, wisdom and a connection with all living things.



'Twas the week before Allhallows,  
when all through the forest;  
Not a creature was stirring,  
except for the tourists.  
Webs spun on the tree trunks,  
all with great care,  
In hopes that our guests  
soon would be scared.  
The luminaries were nestled,  
along the loop trail;  
When apparitions of the past  
told their true tales.  
Two trusted tour guides  
well-versed in such matters,  
Arrived and, just then,  
arose such a clatter!  
Dinos, doggos, and ghosts all appeared;  
Woken from their slumber  
and back into existence;  
When the veil between past  
and present was thinnest...

By Jackie Bartko, HRIA Volunteer



# Haunted Halloween at Humboldt Redwoods

By Jackie Bartko, HRIA Volunteer

It was another smashing success at Humboldt Redwoods Park put on by Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association's (HRIA) Halloween spooktacular this year. Guests from far and wide traveled along the Gould Grove loop trail to meet many fabled characters of this forests' past. Transformed into a ghoulish arena, the forest twinkled with over 600 luminaries along the way. Guided through the veil between past and present, guests visited eight storytellers amongst our beloved wooded giants.



HRIA Volunteers Sophia & Isaac in character

After traveling under a great purple archway and into a forest alive with ghosts, guests were first greeted by Mr. Gould himself! Next, a-p[u]p-ariation named Boomer Jack told of his many travels during a life lived on the railways between Trinidad and San Francisco. Guests also met more troubled souls, some driven to violence, others, cult followers called to these woods for their final moments together. There was quite a ghoulish creature with the largest of soles, even a child forever lost and unaware of the great mystery surrounding her sudden disappearance into the woods.

A true highlight, the unique opportunity to immerse oneself in the lore of this place and take a nighttime wander, while the edges of the forest floor twinkle, is worth every effort to be there that special night.

## What is MAU?

By Mary Moore, MAU Lead & HRIA Board Member

We are Humboldt Redwoods State Park Mounted Assistance Unit Volunteers that help maintain park trails and the Cuneo Creek Horse Camp. MAU was founded in 2002 and currently has 23 members and 4 new applicants. We are very familiar with the trails and assist visitors with directions and trail and park information. There are over 100 miles of trails/roads in the park many of which are multi-use and available for equines. The park is open year around, with some trails are closed during the winter rainy season, but all park roads are open year around.

Humboldt Redwoods State Park's (HRSP) Cuneo Creek Horse Camp is a premier destination with 2 group camps, each with large BBQ areas (A has 22 corrals and B has 18 corrals), and 4 family camps with 2 pipe corrals each. Amenities include flush toilets (as well as outhouses), coin showers, tables, fire rings, bear boxes, a big sand pit, wheelbarrows, manure bins, and chlorinated water at troughs and faucets.

Annually, MAU members ride hundreds of hours in the park clearing trails, assisting visitors, and reporting hazards to the Rangers. We carry drinking water, first aid supplies, park maps etc. to assist those in need.

The MAU members go through a rigorous training and testing process. The new applicant must apply through the park volunteer program including fingerprinting and background checks, and have a current MAU member sponsor. Then the equine and applicant are invited to the campout and spend a day being tested on safety. The next step is to ride in the park with their sponsor, learning all about the trails and the park. After that the equine/rider pair are retested and then the member is given a written test about the park. After successfully completing all phases of this, the applicant is given an official vest to identify them as a MAU Volunteer Member.



Members of MAU ride the park year around and have many interesting encounters. Once two members were riding up Johnson Trail when as they rounded a turn the trail before them had completely disappeared. The trail for 100 feet had slid down the hillside due to a mudslide during the spring. The GPS location was marked and sent to the MAU Advisor Ranger and repairs soon followed.

In the April before Cuneo Creek Horse Camp is open MAU members do a spring campout and spend the weekend preparing the camp for the season. Likewise, after the camp is closed for the season (early October) we have a fall campout to end the season. At both we are working and testing.

Plan ahead and make reservations (up to 6 months in advance): 1-800-444-PARK (7275) TDD: 1-800-274-7275 or online at [reservcalifornia.com](http://reservcalifornia.com)

We feel very fortunate to have such an amazing dedicated horse camp in our beautiful park among the tallest trees in the world (Sequoia Sempervirens). You will encounter deer, fox, bear, squirrels and other wildlife on the trails and in camp. We are here to contribute to your experience in the park and we hope to see you out enjoying the trails. If you would like more information or have questions, please contact Mary Moore MAU Unit Coordinator through HRIA.

## **Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Updates**

By Carla Thomas, HRIA Board Member

The Sinkyone Wilderness State Park was expecting a road closure for the summer of 2022 for a major road repair project to be done by the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (DOT). However, permit issues delayed the start of the project so the road was able to stay open all summer. Recently the DOT did its late fall preparation for the winter on the road. Camp Hosts were able to staff the Needle Rock Visitor Center and support visitors all year. We are prepared to keep the VC staffed in a future year during the project when it is able to commence.

In the meantime HRIA and its SWSP Needle Rock Camp Hosts have expanded the interpretive activities including the Junior Ranger Program. The Skyfish Briceland School 5-6th grade teacher Nona Ikeda's class conducted an overnight trip with students and parents. Work with other northern Mendocino schools is continuing through school-funded initiatives and collaboration with DPR interpretive staff and Sinkyone Camp Hosts.



The elk herd is growing, with a record number of calves born this year. DPR is conducting controlled burns almost every year between Jones Beach and Needle Rock, but was not able to do one this year. The burns have reduced invasive weeds and appear to be increasing the nutrition available to wildlife. Also invasive weeds removal work days were conducted in Spring and Summer.

## **Centennial Celebration of Standish Hickey**

By Cleo Domingo, HRSP Park Interpreter

California State Parks, Team Standish, and members of the community helped celebrate the centennial of Standish-Hickey State Recreation Area (Standish) on Saturday, October 1st.

In 1922, a 40-acre campground was donated and named after Edward Hickey, who was a caretaker for victims of the 1918 flu epidemic. In the late 1950s, 500 more acres were donated by the descendants of Miles Standish, who was a Plymouth Rock pilgrim. Save the Redwoods League donations later expanded the park to more than 1,000 acres. In 2011, due to a state budget crisis, Standish was proposed for closure. After hearing this, two local groups - Mendocino Area Parks Association (MAPA) and Team Standish - and the local community, stepped up to support the

park. They performed all the essential duties to keep Standish operating such as clearing roads, maintaining campgrounds, and interpreting to the public. Standish reopened in July 2012.

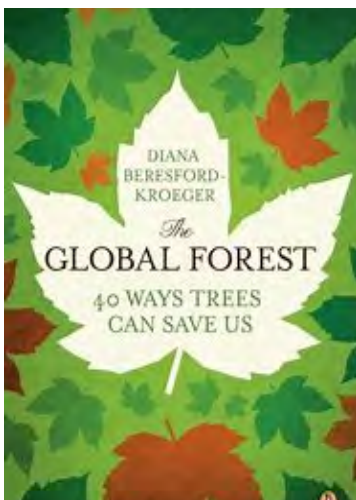
Standish is the southern gateway to the coast redwoods, and is located right off of Highway 101. Because the park is easy to get to, it gets a lot of Spanish-speaking visitors from the Santa Rosa-Napa area. These visitors often come to Standish to have family gatherings, using it as a place for celebrations. Standish has the most diverse visitor-ship in the North Coast Redwoods District.

Due to the history and diverse community that surrounds the park, Standish deserved a celebration. Erika Granadino, Interpreter I for the Eel River Sector (which includes Standish as well as Richardson Grove State Park, Benbow State Recreation Area and a few others), spearheaded the event, blending the park’s centennial and Hispanic Heritage Month. But in true Standish tradition, she was not doing it alone! She had the help of Jeff Hedin (Team Standish and MAPA) and Cayanne (The Peg House), donations from Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (HRIA), prizes from Save the Redwoods League, and a guest appearance from the Leggett Fire Department.



From left to right: Bruce Hilbach-Barger, Carla Thomas, State Park Peace Officer (SPPO) Scott Stevens, Scott Lewis, Maintenance Aide James Lynn, Maintenance Aide Hayley O’Keeffe, Interpretive Programs Manager Marmin Robbins, Interpreter I Erika Granadino, Supervising SPPO Thomas Gunther, Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association Director Sophia Eckert, Interpreter II Ryan Spencer, Supervising SPPO Greg Hall, Permanent Maintenance Assistant Corina Leiterman, (off duty) SPPO Estephen Gonzales, Team Standish and MAPA Member Jeff Hedin, Ann Hagerman, Veda Hoyes, and Gary Ballard.

A month and a half of planning culminated into a wonderful event full of Junior Ranger activities, homemade piñatas, historical displays, local booths, free tacos (thanks to HRIA), and heartfelt speeches. It was a celebration that encompassed all Standish stands for.



## The Global Forest - 40 Ways Trees Can Save Us

When the author of *The Global Forest* was asked to comment on her work she replied, “Oh, that’s a prayerbook.”

Indeed, each of the forty essays admire, appreciate or describe the ways which trees sustain earthly existence. And it all begins when the sun shines on the leaves and the miracle of photosynthesis occurs. The life force is born.

The functions of trees are unending. The leaves of urban trees sweep the air of particle pollution. The leaves of trees along bodies of

water add iron to foster the growth of phytoplankton – which oxygenate and feeds the marine world. Several forms of trees create a variety of nuts and berries. These are food for animals, insects and humans. In addition to being sources of protein, these nut meats contain essential fatty acids for the health of brains, nervous systems and circulation.

Locally, the coastal redwoods are a marvel of the forests. In addition to sequestering more heat trapping carbon dioxide, these trees create their own microclimate of fog. These fog banks protect the fragile branch tips from excessive summer heat. Due to their longevity, they accumulate soil mats on their branches which support salamanders, bonsai forests, berry bushes and hundreds of microscopic life forms.

As trees transpire water vapor, they moderate land temperatures. Modern science has brilliantly synthesized nearly sixty percent of our medicines from the chemicals of the forest. Japanese culture has long known that trees expel beneficial antiviral and antibiotic chemical aerosols. Forest bathing is prescribed to boost immune systems. It is a practice with a 1,000-year history.

Recent studies of forests have discovered that there is a social dimension to them. When some trees are lacking in nourishment, their need is communicated via the root systems and the forest makes food available. Trees also can warn other trees about predators which then release chemicals to ward off the attack. In the African savanna the umbrella thorn acacia are a favorite food of giraffes. As soon as leaves are eaten, the trees secrete a gaseous alarm of ethylene to warn other acacias within 50 yards. On the North American continent beeches, spruce, and other oaks disseminate defensive compounds in response to being eaten. These chemicals spread at a rate of about 1/3 of an inch per minute.

Another characteristic of forests is that they contain and rely on “Mother Trees” – usually the oldest and largest members of the forest. These prized specimens are often the first trees which humans remove. This act depletes the vitality of the forest – the community of trees. The central roles which forests play in so many areas of the natural world make it easy to understand that forest health and planetary health are synonymous. Two million years ago the entire northern hemisphere was covered with nearly 100 species of redwood trees. Since the last ice age ended, redwoods now live in California and a small valley in China. The great forests of Europe and the British Isles are gone. The great savanna of eastern USA is gone. It was leveled in the last 400 years. As shocking, is the fact that in 1950, thirty percent of the earth’s land was covered in forest. Now 70 years later, only 5 percent of land is forested.

It is little wonder that climate change is a reality; a serious threat to all earthly life. So the equation is simple – more trees equals more climate stability and less trees equals the current crisis. Dr. Beresford Kroeger has devised an idea to counter this emergency. She refers to it as her BIOPLAN FOR SURVIVAL: If each person would plant one native tree species per year for the next 6 years, global temperature rise would lessen greatly, thereby giving humanity more time to effectively change course and save the planet.

Please plant native trees.

Sincerely, B. Riley  
Volunteer Park Docent



Return Service Requested

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Fall/Winter 2022

**GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE  
HUMBOLDT REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION**

You can help support the work of the HRIA by becoming a member. Funds raised through memberships, endowments, and donations enable HRIA to develop displays, purchase equipment, sponsor research, publish interpretive literature, and fund the expansion of the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor Center and its quality exhibits. A critical element in the success of the Association is its membership and endowment program. Individuals and families throughout the country have long supported the Association. Member benefits include a 20% discount on all books, maps, posters, calendars and publications stocked for sale by the Association (not available to Senior/Student members), the Association newsletter, and tax deductible membership dues. Members also have the benefit of knowing that they are participating in an organization dedicated to expanding the awareness of one of the most unique ancient forests left on Earth.

**Please enroll me in the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association at the membership level circled below:**

Student/Senior	\$10	Patron	\$500
Individual	\$25	Endowment	\$1,000
Supporting	\$50	Redwood Crown	\$2,500
Sponsoring	\$100	Donation	\$_____
Life	\$250		

Mail Check to:  
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