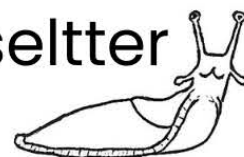




HUMBOLDT REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

Fall/Winter 2023 Newseltter



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: ALAN AITKEN

Fall, with shorter days and the return of inclement weather, it is a great time to relax with a good book. Books sold in the Visitor Center represent a large portion of the yearly sales that support HRIA. Our staff is constantly working to keep the shelves stocked with the most recent books regarding the redwoods, ecology, Native Americans, and other topics. Currently I am reading *The Ghost Forest* by Greg King, "which explains how and why the liquidation (of the redwood forest) occurred, from the nineteenth-century robber barons who stole hundreds of thousands of acres of redwood lands to the modern corporations who exploited the forests for their own agenda." The book was published this year and is currently on our shelves for sale. This book, and hundreds of books, are available to volunteers and visiting HRIA members in our library.



Alan Aitken

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association received over 50 donations towards our silent auction for our annual Holiday Party. We greatly appreciate the support of our community businesses and artists. Thank you to the following donors:



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HAPPY
HOLIDAYS 
02 / 08

RICHARDSON GROVE'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

BY CLEO DOMINGO, PARK INTERPRETER

Richardson Grove has served as an epicenter for many different communities since time immemorial. Prior to European colonization Wailaki and Sinkiyone peoples have cared for the area by burning the coast redwood grove, promoting and supporting biodiversity. In its early years as a State Park, Richardson Grove saw Hollywood elite and families that came for amenities like the movies shown and ice cream served in the Richardson Grove Lodge. Today, park visitors come to marvel at the old growth redwoods, swim in the nearby Eel River, or relish in nostalgia.

On Saturday, September 30th, California State Parks, park partners, and community members gathered at Richardson Grove State Park to celebrate its centennial anniversary! More than 300 people joined in the festivities, celebrating the many communities that have made Richardson Grove what it is today.

The centennial celebration started with the unveiling of a new mosaic that was created and donated by local artist Jennifer Amidi. Next was the welcome ceremony, which included speeches from Supervising Park Ranger Greg Hall, District Superintendent Victor Bjelajac, and local anthropologist and Wailaki partner Ben Schill. After the welcome ceremony local band Object Heavy performed (photo right), filling the grove with funky jazz as visitors enjoyed park festivities and food from the local food truck Little Bits.

State Park Interpreters and volunteers led activities such as face painting, antler ring toss, a photo booth, and a bounce house. There were also special guided programs such as lotería, piñatas, and English and Spanish guided walks. A popular activity was the dunk tank where many lined up to dunk Parks staff, like the aforementioned District Superintendent.

Local community groups set up booths to teach about their organizations. These groups included Bureau of Land Management - King Range National Conservation Area, CalFire, Ciencia Para Todos, the Environmental Protection Information Center, Friends of the Eel River, Friends of the Lost Coast, Humboldt County Historical Society, Humboldt Workforce Coalition, My Humboldt Abode, Redwoods Rising and Save the Redwoods League.



Thank you to the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association, Save the Redwoods League, the planning committee, and Parks staff and volunteers (Visitor Services, Maintenance, Interpretation) who made the event possible. Special thanks to all who attended and made the event wonderful. Cheers to the next 100 years!



Pictured left, visitor signs postcard to Richardson Grove and local community booths line the way to the stage. Pictured center, State Park Interpreter Cleo Domingo collects balls for the next participant to try to dunk Supervising Ranger Greg Hall. Pictured right, Artist Jennifer Amidi shows District Superintendent Victor Bjelajac the piece that she created for the Richardson Grove State Park Visitor Center.

HAUNTED HALLOWEEN CANDLELIT WALK BY SOPHIA ECKERT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HRIA hosted our third annual Haunted Halloween Candlelit Walk in the Redwoods in October. The family friendly event began at the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor Center, where visitors could play games, watch a Halloween movie, explore the spooky Visitor Center, and purchase tickets for the haunted walk. A jack-o-lantern and luminary lit path then led outside to the campfire center. A cozy campfire with s'mores supplies, hot chocolate, and Hocus Pocus offered visitors warmth and relaxation before or after their walk. Across the Avenue of the Giants, brave participants entered the haunted forest. Over 600 luminaries guided them along the Gould Nature Loop Trail, with over a half mile of eerie scenes, spirits, sites, and sounds!





The redwood forest can be ominous on any given dark night. On this evening, with a full moon, a crisp autumn chill, and the thrill of Halloween in the air, it was particularly spooky. The secrets of the forest on Halloween can not be explained, they can only be experienced! Curious? You will have to join us next year to find out for yourself!

A special thank you to our volunteers, State Park staff, and everyone who helped make this event possible. Thank you to the 380 people who came out to see what the haunted forest had in store for them!

MOUNTED ASSISTANCE UNIT UPDATES

BY PAT FARMER, MAU MEMBER

The HRSP Mounted Assistance Unit has had a busy year, as the park fully re-opened post pandemic. We continue our work to maintain Cuneo Creek Horse Camp, and to patrol park roads and trails. It's great fun to engage with the public who are fascinated to see the horses on the trails. Adults and children alike are shy to ask but hope to pet the horses - permission granted! The presence of our beautiful animals provides a conversational opening that can lead to guidance about park preservation and protection.

We currently have 28 human - equine teams, and several others in the queue for membership. Becoming a member is a year long process, with testing of the team in Spring and Fall. In addition to all the usual horsie skills, our equines must prove themselves quiet and capable with bicycles, backpackers, rattling trail maps, and other hazards.



As well as trail patrol, volunteers scrub troughs, water young trees, clean fire pits, and tell visitors (about a thousand times) about the dog leash rules. We are always learning more about our park and the ways we can serve. At our fall campout, we enjoyed a terrific presentation from RTR staff Melody and Abraham, on best practices for keeping trails clear.

MAU members would like to close our summer season with a huge THANK YOU to Ranger Alyssa Barry, HRSP's MAU Staff Advisor, and the Humboldt Redwood Interpretive Association. HRIA provides support each year for our annual BBQs, including dinner, our identification shirts and vests, and the certificates, pins and mementos which commemorate hours of service. This year the Mounted Assistance Unit clocked an amazing number of of volunteer hours (over eleven hundred hours), but we always leave time to relax in camp!

SINKYONE WILDERNESS STATE PARK PROGRESS ON TRAILS AND MEADOWS

BY CARLA THOMAS, HRIA BOARD MEMBER



Sinkyone Wilderness State Park was hit hard last winter by multiple extreme storms. The road is once again open and Trail Crews are working to open the Lost Coast Trail. It is still not passable between Wheeler and Bear Harbor, but most of the rest of it is open for out and back use. The meadows between Jones Beach and Needle Rock received its annual prescribed burn in September this year. Rains are already falling and

we are bracing for another severe rain year. The elk herd is thriving with grass growing already. Please check the park website before visiting to get the latest road and trail conditions.

NEW PARK INTERPRETER IN THE EEL RIVER SECTOR

BY SEVEN SPARKS, PARK INTERPRETER

Hello, my name is Seven Sparks, and I am the new permanent Interpreter at Humboldt Redwoods State Park. I am honored to be representing California's third Largest State Park, and to be working alongside Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association, to share the beauty, natural resources and culture of this majestic forest and watershed.

Since my early childhood, my favorite places to visit have been wild lands, including the mountains, forest, rivers, and rural coastal areas. My first visit to the county after being accepted to Humboldt State University was right here at Humboldt Redwoods State Park in Burlington Campground. I immediately felt connected to the area and at home. Knowing I had made the right choice, I relocated to Arcata and began my journey into Interpretation.

I studied with Carolyne Ward in the top Interpretation program that was heavy on the sciences with a thorough education in Interpretation, from program creation and implementation, text writing, and research, to sign design. I graduated with a degree in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation and a Minor in Dance. While in College I worked on multiple real-world projects such as creating an interpretive sign for the US Forest Service on recreation and boating safety that can still be found along the Salmon River. I also began my career as a Seasonal for the CA State Parks. My first season I worked in the Kiosk at Jedediah

Smith Redwoods State Park, and the following year as a Seasonal Interpretive Specialist at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (photo below), where Alan Wilkinson was my mentor. Several years later, Carolyne and Alan created the training manual in Interpretation for CA State Parks. Graduating in the top 10% of my class, I went on to become a Certified Interpretation Trainer with the National Association of Interpretation (NAI) and presented at multiple NAI conferences.



With a desire to give back to my community I joined AmeriCorps and became the Programs Director at the Manila Community Center where I received grant funding to create a summer wilderness backpacking program for disadvantaged youth. I also worked closely with the friends of the dunes, local schools and community members to create a program that facilitated stewardship and education of the manila dunes and coastal trails. I consulted Friends of the Dunes in their first Interpretive Signage and Program development that led to what it is today.

Over the years I have continued to work in leadership roles in natural resources, interpretation, environmental education and community outreach. I have managed organizations such as 4-H, KEET TV early childhood education programs, and Campfire USA to name a few. I developed multiple curriculums for College of the Redwoods Kinesiology and Physical Education Program including pioneering Pilates Classes and Wilderness Hiking and directed the dance program for nearly 2 decades.

For 16 years I owned and operated a small business in Eureka named Sacred Bodies Pilates and Dance where I specialized in sports performance, women's health and physical rehabilitation. When my business closed due to Covid, I went back to school to pursue a lifelong dream of Welding where I became a certified welder and spent a few years as an industrial welder and millwright mechanic.

In addition to these skills, I also have multiple specialized certifications ranging from Swift Water Rescue Technician to Airport Rescue Fire Fighter. My passion for lifelong learning has allowed me to build multiple skills, whereas my passion for sharing this knowledge and inspiring others ultimately led back to this main path of interpretation.

I am very excited to be here and look forward to building relationships and offering unforgettable interpretive experiences here along the Avenue and in the historical park.

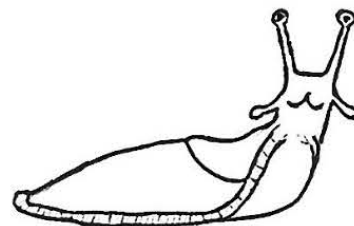


**Humboldt Redwoods
Interpretive Association
PO Box 276
Weott, CA 95571
vc@humboldtreddwoods.org**

GIVE A GIFT OF 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 our 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	Life	\$250
Individual	\$25	Patron	\$500
Supporting	\$50	Endowment	\$1,000
Sponsoring	\$100	Redwood Crown	\$2,500



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