



# Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

## President's Report: Be Fire Safe in the Redwoods

This year's drought, combined with downed material from previous winter damages, and dead and dying tanoak trees from sudden death oak syndrome creates a high fire danger in Northern California, especially in the state parks in Southern Humboldt County. Although redwood bark is



naturally fire resistant, it will burn if the fire is hot enough. Fires have coursed through the redwoods for many centuries. Remains of past fires are seen in blackened bases of trees as well as in goosepens, those trees with burned holes in the base, once used by settlers to keep their geese.

Some fire is beneficial and part of the forest ecosystem. Fire destroys downed material, causes seeds to sprout, and helps maintain a healthy forest by quickly adding nutrients back into the soil. Natural fires caused by lightning can help clear the ground of debris. The 2003 Canoe Creek fire is

shown in before images taken by Dave Stockton, former Executive Director for HRIA and during, taken by Stephen Underwood. That fire, while burning slowly at first was helpful; when it erupted and burned rapidly during hot weather it was very damaging. This year there is a great deal of fuel to feed a devastating fire that could take many decades for the forest to recover.

A constant threat is from manmade fires that erupt quickly, triggering catastrophic fires. When you hike in the parks this summer, be careful of cigarettes, making sure they are extinguished. Also, only use the camp stoves in campgrounds for fires. Be cautious of embers, and make sure a fire is never left unattended. Please, do your part to be fire safe in the redwoods this year and every year!

If you have questions about past fires in Humboldt Redwoods State Park, stop by the Visitors Center to see images of the Canoe Creek fire and as the forest has recovered. We hope you have a chance to stop and visit soon, as each season has its own delights to share! Of course, we could not operate without our wonderful volunteers. I would like to thank Don & Corke Ferrier, Leonn & Ollie Abbott, Patty Costello, Bob & Lynn Frelove, Jim Fithen, Joel & Rosemary Kinny, Nancy Mialovich, J.D. & Heather McClary, Cheryl Stone, June Patton, Virginia Gruziani, Bruce Riley, Michele Spoto, Robert & Susan Tierney, Wayne & Judy Hale, Virgil & Sharon George, Gary & Kathy Hauley, Dick & Shirley Sacco, Harry Sharp, Laurel Franklin, Joann Fairbanks. At Richardson Grove; Mary Hoffman, David & Diane Carlson, Randy & Susan Keller. All of our volunteers help to make everyone's experience in the redwoods unique. If you are interested in volunteering, there are many opportunities, not only at Humboldt Redwoods, but also at Grizzly Creek, Richardson Grove, and the Sinkyone. Please contact Executive Director David Pritchard at [vc@humboldtreduwoods.org](mailto:vc@humboldtreduwoods.org) if interested.



*Susan O'Hara, HRIA President*

## **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, Humboldt County, California. The mission of HRIA is to provide visitors with stimulating explanatory information on the natural and cultural history of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. To help visitors see Humboldt Redwoods 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.

## **Photo Contest for 2014**

The Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association is again sponsoring a Photo Contest for 2014. The contest will again run from May until September 30. Visitors are encouraged to submit images of their favorite part of Humboldt Redwoods, Grizzly Creek Redwoods, Richardson Grove and Sinkyone Wilderness State Parks. A winner for each park will be selected and recognized with a \$50 gift Certificate to be used in any of the Visitor's Center operated by HRIA. A Grand Prize winner will receive 2 nights free camping at the park of their choice. Photographs may be submitted digitally to the Visitors Center at Burlington at [vc@humboldtreedwoods.org](mailto:vc@humboldtreedwoods.org). Digital submissions via flash drives or cds may be mailed to HRIA, P.O. Box 276, Weott, CA 95571. Submitted photographs become the property of HRIA and will be used in newsletters and other interpretive projects around the park.



The 2013 winner was Ginny Dexter with this image of the South Fork in the fall.





### **New At the Center:**

Debbie Gardner, Manager

Spring has arrived, and also new merchandise. We now have map bandanas, our map on a 22 by 22 inch bandana, perfect for any weather. We are one of the first State Parks to have one. We are selling them for \$9.95+tax. Be sure to get yours soon! Another new item features our name on animal ornaments. Selections include a redwood tree, a butterfly, a deer, a river otter, and a squirrel. I would also like to add, I am having a great time here. I have been

the manager now for 6 months, during that time I have had the opportunity to meet some very interesting people. We had the Golden Generation Bicycling Tour come through. They came from Taiwan, China, and Singapore. The ages of the riders began at 71 years young to 94 years young. This was their first trip to the states. They were a joy to visit with and I also took them on a tour of the Redwoods. Have a GREAT spring, and hope to see ya in the Redwoods!



## **Redwood EdVentures Promotes Families Visiting Our Parks!**

By Beth Chaton, Humboldt County Office of Education

Redwood EdVentures, a project of Humboldt County Office of Education, has a family of Quests designed to get people outside, into our local parks (and other public lands), inspiring the discovery of the wonders of our unique forests. A Quest is a treasure hunt with rhyming clues, guiding you along a short path to a final clue. The clue is the “key” to a special prize.

Last spring, Redwood Edventures, North Coast Redwoods State Parks and Humboldt State University’s Environmental Education Practicum class partnered to create seven quests between Richardson Grove and Jedediah Smith State Parks, as a way to encourage families and tourists to visit some of the lesser known trails in our State Parks. To further our efforts in engaging local young people to become environmental stewards, students in Eureka High School’s HROP Marketing Class created the slogan “Nature is closer than you think!” and started working on our own Redwood EdVentures Facebook page. As part of the EHS Marketing Class’ research, we took them on a field trip down the Avenue of the Giants and into the forest so they could experience firsthand the wonders of our redwood forests and see their first Albino redwood. Lunch was at the Visitors Center, which they said was the best such place they had been to during that field trip (besides being in the forest, of course!)

Redwood EdVentures challenged Fortuna High Videography students to create our first Redwood EdVentures ad, featuring David Pritchard, handing out Redwood EdVentures brochures at the Humboldt Redwoods Visitors Center to children, encouraging them to go out and have a great EdVenture. This ad, found on our Redwood EdVentures website, has been in its second airing over the past month on family and



child-focused Suddenlink Cable channels, and at all three Coming Attraction movie theaters.

As a result of a grant award received this year with the USFS and Six Rivers National Forest, a partnership between HCOE, Bureau of Land Management, and North Coast Redwoods State Parks was formalized through the Children's Forest Initiative. Being one of two awards given in California, HCOE expanded the Redwood EdVentures Quest Project, with a total of ten quests being added this year. The 2014 HSU Environmental Ed Practicum class created three of these, with Grizzly Creek State Park being one (the other two include BLM's California Coastal Monument at Trinidad Head and Humboldt Coastal Nature Center's Wildberries Trail).

The Redwood EdVenture's partnership with HRIA will include three trails for exploration: Richardson Grove's Woodland Loop Trail, Humboldt Redwoods' Rockefeller Grove Trail, and Grizzly Creek's Cheatham Grove Trail (ready in early summer). Each of these quests takes the park visitor on a trail that is easy to moderate in hiking ability, about a mile long and designed to take about an hour's time. The Questor is given a brochure at the Visitor Center, or it can be downloaded as a pdf onto a hand held device. Instructions on the brochure ask the reader to follow the movement clues which are italicized and between the numbered stops, which are in rhymes to discover the natural and cultural treasures within this forest. Along the way you will find parts of your Quest Clue, which is the "key" to your prize: a unique Redwood EdVentures Quest patch designed specifically for that quest. If the Visitor Center is closed and/or the Questor wants to visit [www.redwood-edventures.org](http://www.redwood-edventures.org), they can register their Quest and clue on-line and we will send them their patch (as long as our grant funds allow –we will be looking for additional funds and partners to further Redwood EdVentures' ability to keep the brochures and patches available).

You might be wondering where the other Redwood EdVentures Quests are in our growing family of 17: Elementary students in Hoopa and Willow Creek are working on three out on SRNF land (Gray Falls, Tish Tang and Fish Lake); and we rebranded/re-created four former quests created a few years ago at the Arcata Marsh, Arcata Community Forest, Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Headwaters Forest Reserve.

With a soft "opening" of the Redwood EdVentures Quests last year around Labor Day, we are working on perfecting the brochures, maps and promotional materials. We appreciate any feedback or ideas for new quests. We look forward to offering Redwood EdVentures Quests to HRIA!



## Go Take a Hike

**David Pritchard, Executive Director**

Spring has come to the Redwood Forest and it is a perfect opportunity to Go Take a Hike! With more than a 100 miles of trails there is plenty to see and select from. The summer bridges will not be in until later, but there still miles and miles to walk and discover! For example, there are three beautiful trails that are ADA accessible, each are about a half mile. They are the Gould trail right across the avenue from the Visitor Center, the Founder's Grove, four miles north of the visitor center and last but not least, the Rockefeller Loop trail on the Bull Creek Honeydew road.

The Rockefeller trail takes you through some of the 10,000 acres of virgin timber. Eighteen of the world's tallest trees are in that loop. If going on the Rockefeller Loop, you should pick up the Quest at the Visitor Center and look for the hidden clue and come back to the visitor center and pick up a patch for everyone that found the clue. Fun for the entire family! While walking the Founders Grove Loop Trail you can pick up a brochure at the trails head explaining what you are looking at in ten different locations

along the trail. #8 is the most famous stop along the trail, the Dyerville Giant, which fell in 1991. When it fell some locals thought that it was a train wreck. The shock wave from its falling also set off seismic graphs. The Gould Trail also has river access and is a self-guided walk with interpretive signs along the way. As you walk into the grove and you see the sign that says loop trail the tree directly behind that sign is the third largest tree in the park, with a diameter of about 17 feet. As Corke, one of volunteers, says it is “ginormous.” Another gorgeous trail, although not handicapped accessible, is the Drury-Chaney Trail near the south end of the community of Pepperwood. This 2.6 miles a loop trail features sorrel blanketing the forest floor that it is extremely lush and green. Walking this trail is like turning back the hands of time to the prehistoric days of dinosaurs.

For those of you that are avid hikers there is the Grasshopper Lookout Trail which gives you a breath taking 360 degree view of the park and beyond, climbing to an elevation of 3,379 feet. There are five trail camps in the back country along this trail in different areas. This multi use trail is for hikes, trail bikes and horses. So Go Take a Hike! And, Enjoy the great outdoors!

## Sinkyone Wilderness joins the HRIA and launches the Mike Rydjord



### Memorial Fund

By Carla Thomas

The Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association is pleased to announce that it is now the interpretive association for the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park on the Lost Coast west of Garberville. The Eel River State Parks District Rangers, the Sinkyone camp hosts, who staff the Needle Rock Visitor Center and HRIA have partnered to support interpretive experiences at this beautiful coastal park on the Lost Coast.

HRIA is committed to all support all of the parks in the district. This year through working with the park district rangers and camp hosts, HRIA has

established the Mike Rydjord Memorial Fund for the Maintenance and Betterment of The Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Now it is now possible to make donations specifically for the betterment and maintenance of the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. Donations may be made at the Sinkyone Needle Rock Visitor Center or may be mailed to the directly to the HRIA. Contributors should specify that they are for the Mike Rydjord Memorial Fund for the Sinkyone.

The Sinkyone Wilderness State Park has been very hard hit by budget cuts and no longer has the maintenance budget and staff that it once had. Mike Rydjord, and his wife Linda, camp hosted at the park for 22 years. Mike was the backbone of the host program and often went above and beyond standard duties to make certain the park was able to remain a special experience for its visitors and patrons. They rescued troubled adventurers, cleared roads and trails, removed invasive weeds, installed the solar electric system in the visitor center, coordinated repairs with park maintenance supervisors and conducted maintenance assistance. Mike also taught many of the other camp hosts how to do these important services that have helped to keep the park open during budget shortfalls. Linda always had some tea or a plate of cookies to soothe those who needed it.

Carla Thomas, a north coast resident and camp host, has joined the HRIA Board and will represent the Sinkyone for HRIA. “I am honored to be a part of this essential and important non-profit organization. I look forward to working with HRIA to assure the Sinkyone and all the district’s parks continue to provide a sense of awe in which the human spirit finds meaning, wisdom and a connection with living things for park visitors for years to come. The Sinkyone camp hosts have been seeking a



partnership like this one for years and hope that folks will consider joining and supporting this organization with membership and donations during such a critical time.”

The Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, created in 1976, is the youngest park to be added to the Eel River District. It is the home to a large herd of Roosevelt elk and encompasses the southern half of the world-famous Lost Coast Trail for backpacking and day hikes. Visitors can experience the historic Needle Rock Visitors Center, the last remaining structure of a logging town established in the mid 1800’s and remote wilderness streams, beaches, forests and hike-in day use and camp sites. There are several redwood groves within a day’s hike from the visitor center. It’s a relatively untouched place without the crowds, where a person can find peace and beauty. The road into the park is an adventure all its own down a 3 mile very narrow road that hugs a mountainside. But if you are up to it, the Sinkyone is well worth the trip.



## Pretty in Purple

Sophia Eckert, Seasonal Interpreter

Spring has sprung, and so have the beautiful wildflowers that bring color to the redwood forests!



These annual visitors make a daily commute more enjoyable, give butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds more spry in their fly, and increase the diversity that makes the local ecosystem ever changing and ever fascinating. With all colors of the spectrum beautifully represented, the regal purples are being called 2014’s “it” color. You can’t miss these pretty in purple marvels on the runways of northern California. First to take the show, is the commonly called Lupine (*Lupinus perennis* L.), starring along the sides of Highway 101. Lupine loves direct sunlight, and therefore grows in open areas rather than tucked away within the forest. Although hummingbirds and butterflies love it, don’t be fooled by its naive, colorful appeal. It is very toxic and can have psychological effects if consumed, loss of muscular control, and even coma or death in large quantities.

Enjoy these beauties with your eyes alone!

Next up of the pretty purples is the California Lilac. Of the *Ceanothus* species, the lilac is an evergreen shrub with small bundles of purple and blue flowers. These shrubs are drought tolerant so they proudly scatter forest edges, enjoying the sun and not crying for rain. While you may wander over to have a better look, go ahead and give them a smell; their fragrance is lovely and sweet. Teas were made of the dried leaves by Native Americans and the flowers can be crushed and mixed with water to create a gentle soap.



Last to take the stage is the understated and elegant Douglas Iris (*Iris douglasiana*). In the redwoods they are typically purple and white, yet they can wear many shades of purple. Named after the botanist David Douglas, as with the famous Douglas Fir, these flowers are drought tolerant, enjoy growing in clumps, and are friendly with local bees and butterflies. Historically, the rhizome (main parts of the roots) was dried and used as a diuretic and a healing agent. However, fresh rhizome is toxic, playing both sides of naughty and nice. Gracing us with her presence until June, enjoy this lovely wildflower in

nature, or in your garden. Although the days are busy, don't forget to stop and relish the wildflowers this spring, and let them be a reminder that life is temporary, so enjoy it every chance you get.

More information available at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/lupinus\\_perennis.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/lupinus_perennis.shtml)

<http://www.goldenwestcollege.edu/garden/plantofmonth/0310.html>

<http://keys2liberty.wordpress.com/tag/california-lilac/>

[http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/garden/bloom\\_09\\_05.shtml](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/garden/bloom_09_05.shtml)

## **Interpreting the Redwoods**

Laurel Franklin, Seasonal Interpreter

Wiser

I seek out the sun rays

Inhale the earthy wet eerie silence

No birds or movement

Nothing but the ancient breath of the giants can be heard

It fills me with a wisdom I cannot understand

Yet I gratefully accept

And exhale deeply in return

-Laurel Franklin

Hello! My name is Laurel Franklin and I am new to Humboldt Redwoods State Park recently hired on as a seasonal interpreter. I would like to introduce myself and also to share my first impressions and experiences of this incredible natural preserve.

I truly think that Humboldt Redwoods State Park is home to the most beautiful forest I have ever seen. I find that only through poetry can one even begin to describe in words the grandeur and utter humility inspired by these ancient trees. I entered the fortress of Humboldt Redwoods for the first time six and a half months ago basically on a whim. I had read an article in National Geographic describing Humboldt University Professor Steve Silletts' research on Redwood trees and decided to make Humboldt Redwoods my final western destination point on a solo trip across the country.

Of all the beautiful places I saw, of all the national forests I camped in, the coastal redwood trees literally stopped me in my tracks. I have not left. I found a job on the Avenue of the Giants in Myers Flat, and would spend the rest of my time exploring the trails, rivers, and creeks of this massive park. The more time I spent immersed in this wilderness the more I fell in love.

I wanted to learn more and to give back to the park, so in January I signed up to volunteer at the visitor's center twice a week. I met so many wonderful travelers, volunteers, and state park staff. In February, I went on a ride along with Ranger Allan Wiegman through the park and he showed me new groves and albino redwood trees! In March, I decided to apply for a seasonal internship position leading guided hikes, running junior ranger programs, and presenting educational campfire programs to the public. In April I was hired! I am getting introduced to the more formal side of the state park and am grateful to have such helpful, informative, hard-working people showing me the ropes. I have a sharp uniform and feel so proud to be representing California State Parks that I am having a hard time holding back an exaggerated salute any time I come across anyone in the park! I'm succeeding about 50% of the time =)

As you can see I have been inspired (to put it lightly). I only hope to continue learning more and to facilitate inspiration and respect in others. Yes the public will learn about Humboldt Redwoods from the park staff, myself included, but I know that most of their education will come from the unspoken magic of the trees.





Return Service Requested

**Humboldt Redwoods**  
**Interpretive Association**  
 PO Box 276 Weott, CA 95571  
 Email: [vc@humboldtredwoods.org](mailto:vc@humboldtredwoods.org)

Spring 2014

Non-profit Organization  
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**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, and publish interpretive literature and also to 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:

HRIA

or circle

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