



Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

President's Report

Fall has arrived. The busy season for this year is nearly over. This summer over 71,000 visitors came to the interpretive center at Humboldt Redwoods State Park between May and September. The interpretive center at Richardson Grove was opened for the summer months of July and August, and assisted over 4,000 visitors. The interpretive center at Grizzly Creek and at Sinkyone are also gaining popularity with more visitors than in summers past. Of course this could not be accomplished without thousands of hours logged by our ever amazing volunteers and staff. Thanks to all that made this possible.

From my personal point of view, the cooler temperatures of fall and winter makes a hike on our trails more refreshing. The recent rains have washed the forest enhancing the colors and making this time of year the best for photographers. While visitors still continue to arrive the lower numbers mean less traffic and noise giving one the feeling that they have the whole park to themselves.

For those of you planning to visit Humboldt Redwoods State Park this time of year remember the summer bridges have been removed and camp grounds will be closed with the exception of Burlington next to the main interpretive center. You'll find that making reservations for camping at Burlington are generally easy to obtain with few if any days booked to capacity.



Photo by HRSP Volunteer JD McClary

Fall is also my favorite time because I resume my volunteering in the visitor center each Monday morning. The need for volunteers always increases this time of year. Volunteering in the visitor center only requires 3-4 hours one day a week. We offer a low stress environment where you will assist visitors from every corner of the planet and share your love of this unique redwood environment.

Alan Aiken



Photo by HRSP Volunteer Laurel Franklin

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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 and Sinkyone Wilderness State Park 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; 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.

2015 Christmas Party

The annual tree lighting of our outside tree at Burlington will take place on Wednesday December 9th.

The public is invited to come to the center for festivities starting at 6:00 and enjoy hot cider and hot chocolate along with cookies.

Santa will arrive at 7:00 to light the tree and to hear some children’s wishes for Christmas.

Inside the center, you can help decorate the tree by making a donation for an ornament you can then dedicate and place on the tree.

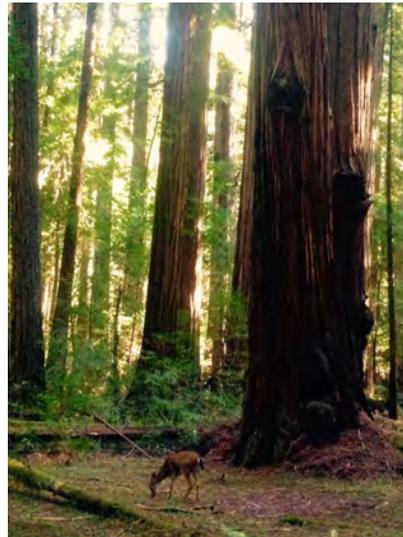


Photo Contest

This years photo contest submission period is over. A winner will be chosen in November, and announced in the Winter newsletter... Stay tuned!

Seen here is one of this years contest submissions.

Managers Report

By Debbie Gardner, HRIA Manager

Happy day to all! As the season changes to fall, Humboldt Redwoods State Park is the place to be. The leaves of the maple trees are changing to red and gold, and the colorful poison oak adds to the forests canvas. This to me is one of the best times to walk among the Redwoods. The crisp and calm of fall is something we can never get enough of. If you visit the park and visitor center and forget your jacket, we now have zip up sweatshirts in addition to our crewneck sweatshirts. We also have new books to read while you relax by a fire, and new mugs perfect for hot apple cider!

As always, the visitor center is still looking for local volunteers. If you have a few hours, and a day or two that you don't know what to do, VOLUNTEER. It's fun. Hope to see you soon and happy holidays to all!

HRIA Happenings



Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

This years volunteer appreciation luncheon at Samoa Cookhouse was held on Saturday October 10th. Nearly 40 volunteers, park staff, friends and family were in attendance. Camphosts, MAU volunteers, and visitor center volunteers were honored for their dedication and efforts, which are so greatly appreciated.

Amazon Smile

Purchasing goods online with Amazon has proven convenient to most people at some point, especially to those living far away from shopping areas. Recently, Amazon Smile has been introduced, which allows the customer access to the same merchandise and prices, but donates a portion of the costs to a charitable donation of the customers choice. HRIA is a now a charitable option to choose - So next time you are in need of ordering something from Amazon online, go to smile.amazon.com and choose the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association as an easy way to contribute!

HRIA Website Revision

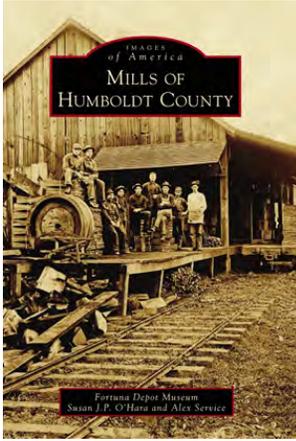
The HRIA and Humboldt Redwoods State Park website www.humboldtredwoods.org is in the midst of a major revamp. The new website will be similar in appearance, but will be mobile friendly and will contain a lot more useful information for visitors to the area. The new site should be up and running in December!

Avenue of the Giants Marathon Booth

For the first time, the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association and California State Parks set up a booth at this years annual marathon. In addition to free information, maps and brochures, HRIA merchandise was sold. The booth was run by Sophia Eckert with HRIA and Interpreter Jake Josepher from Humboldt Redwoods State Park. It enabled runners along with their friends and family to easily obtain information about their visit to the area. In addition, HRIA and parks presence at the event served as a reminder of the important work that is done on a daily basis in order to provide visitors the most enjoyable experience possible. The next marathon will be held on May 1st and is expected to have higher attendance.



Mills of Humboldt County



Board Member Susan O'Hara and Fortuna Depot Museum curator, Dr. Alex Service have collaborated on another book for Arcadia Publishing on local history. This time the two have examined the history of redwood logging in Humboldt county. The new book, due to be released in December, 2015, uses images to tell the story of both the lumber mills and the shingle mills that extended from Humboldt Bay to Trinidad in the north and as far south as Stafford by the turn of the 20th century. In addition to highlighting these mills, the book also explains logging practices of the 19th century and how these changed due to changes in technology. The new technology is shown pictorially as well as explained as to the impact that the technology had on the lumber industry. Highlights include not only James Dolbeer steam engine, the donkey, but also a combined donkey and locomotive invented by Dolbeer to move logs to the mills. Also shown is

shingle making machine and the different saws used both to cut the redwoods down and to mill them. The images both share the history of this important industry to the region but also graphically illustrate why the saving of the redwoods became so paramount by the early 20th century. The authors plan on writing a companion book which will cover the rise and decline of the redwood lumber industry in the 20th century, and the impact that redwood land preservation had on the industry. Copies will be available at the Visitors Centers when it is released.

Richardson Grove Update

By Susan Doniger

The Richardson Grove Lodge is coming along...as you can see. I hope the HRIA Board, volunteers and public will enjoy the new exhibits and décor! The exhibits are almost finished, but there will be some major work still to come over the winter while the building is closed, including construction of a new roof and a new foundation for the theater building. We are also planning the construction of a new ADA bathroom inside the building to accommodate staff and visitors. Our hope is that the building will once again become an attraction for tourists, tour groups and the local community and that HRIA will be able to enhance their sales revenue in this facility. Who knows, one day we may be able to rent the building for small conferences, weddings and possibly operate a small coffee concession. There is a lot of room in this beautiful old building and a boatload of potential! I really appreciate the support from the Board, Sophia, and of course our wonderful maintenance staff headed by Mike Pogue, in making this a successful project!



Another Summer at Grizzly Creek

By Holly Starks, Grizzly Creek Park Aide

Grizzly Creek campgrounds made it through yet another busy summer with popular Junior Ranger programs such as guided night hikes through the redwoods, identifying river educational wildlife



trivia game. Campers also enjoyed hot chocolate next to the campfire during our outdoor Friday night movie featuring the Lorax. Stargazing on the riverbed was another popular activity, especially during the meteor shower that happened early August. Also, the long awaited interp panel was finally installed at Cheatam Grove this past month; now not only will people know this popular spot because of its appearance in Star Wars but visitors can learn about the history of this area as well. Special thanks to our park aides who were always finding ways to inform and inspire our campers.

MAU Report

By Cathy Mathena

The camping season is winding down, nights are getting colder and soon we will be setting the clocks back. The summer went by so fast, but not before Cuneo Creek Campground saw a much needed repair. At the Mounted Assistance Unit's Fall Campout & Work Weekend, the volunteers & park staff added 70 yards of gravel to the 42 horse corrals. Every one of them needed gravel due to erosion and wear & tear over the years. This was a major undertaking involving gravel being trucked in by dump truck, a tractor hauling it to each corral and volunteers & park staff, spreading it out with shovels.



The unit also saw the addition of two new members. Rochelle Vernon & Nancy Mokry have been working since May with their horse & mule to fulfill the requirements to become a Mounted Assistance Unit Volunteer. Pictured here is Rochelle on her mule Ruby. MAU member, Cindy Giacomini, is simulating a hiker approaching Rochelle & Ruby to ask for directions. Horses & mules can view ordinary objects, like a white map or a big backpack, as strange and a possible threat. The testing process that new members & their equines go through help to ensure a positive experience for park visitors.

If you happen to be out hiking the trails & see a mounted volunteer, don't hesitate to stop them & ask them any question you may have.

A Productive Year of Growth for Sinkyone

By Carla Thomas, HRIA Board Member

It's been a great year for the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. We have a new Ranger and Park Aid. Ranger Krista Pelikan joined the Sinkyone as its State Park Ranger in mid-August. She brings a lot of energy to her job and is looking forward to working on park projects.

Park Aid David Murray joined the Sinkyone in May. Six trail bridges are replaced between Jones Beach and Bear Harbor an effort that included more than 1500 volunteer hours as an Eagle Scout project for Joseph Haas, Troop 13 New Castle. The water and solar systems are upgraded, and outhouses are in better shape than they have been in a long time. Autumn is a time of year when the weather is usually warm, sunny and not too windy. This autumn has been beautiful. The Sinkyone has had more visitors this year than in the past. So come and visit us at the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.



On September 19th family and friends gathered to dedicate the bridges that were built to Whale Gulch Fire Department Chief Archie Umina, Briceland Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tim Olsen, and Sinkyone Camp Host Mike Rydjord. Scout Joseph Haas lead the ceremony at the Needle Rock Visitor Center then lead a hike over the bridges.

New Ranger on Board at HRSP

By Sophia Eckert

Humboldt Redwoods State Park welcomes Ranger John Hardcastle. Ranger Hardcastle's father Joseph Hardcastle was also a California State Parks Peace Officer in the area. Ranger John



Hardcastle graduated from South Fork High School, and continued his education at University of California Santa Cruz in Environmental Studies. He has been a Peace Officer for 6.5 years, working at Santa Cruz coastal parks such as Natural Bridges, Richardson Grove, and Mount Diablo. Ranger Hardcastle is living at the park with his new spouse, Danielle. He enjoys being a Ranger because he gets to work outside and meet so many interesting people. He especially likes Humboldt Redwoods State Park because its size allows for a lot of variety. Here Ranger Hardcastle is pictured with a Calisoga longitarsis that he caught, also known as a velveteen tarantula, although not a true tarantula.

Tanbark Industry

By Susan O'Hara

In researching for the new book *Mills of Humboldt County*, information about other types of wood harvested was reviewed. For example, a wood product industry in Humboldt County in the late 1800s and early 1900s was based on the tannic acid found in the bark of a familiar tree in the region, *Lithocarpus densiflora*, commonly known as tanoak. Tanoak grows both among the redwoods and on the drier hills above the redwood belt. The acorns of this tree provided a staple for the First People in the area, and were harvested in the fall of each year.

The use of the bark of the Tanoak for tanning hides was first realized in the Santa Cruz area of California. In Humboldt County, it was first harvested in the Bald Hills region of Northern Humboldt, in the late 1870s, and later it was also peeled extensively in Southern Humboldt. The acid was used in tanning cowhides for leather. By the mid 19th century, tanning of hides was the fifth largest industry in the United States according to author Gordon C. Whitney. Tanneries were found locally near Rohnerville, Eureka, Arcata, and Freshwater. Larger tanneries were located near San Francisco, and tanoak bark was shipped extensively from Humboldt to the bay area not only from Humboldt Bay but also smaller ports at Bear River, and from the mouth of the Mattole river.

The tanbark industry was connected to the redwood lumber industry as large lumber companies would send men into the forest to harvest tanbark before the area was logged for redwoods. Otherwise, when loggers burned the forest to make removal of redwood logs easier, the fire would damage tanoak, and the profitable bark could not be removed.

The tannin-filled bark could be most easily removed from late May to mid-August. Two men, using a one-edged ax, could peel a large tree in half a day. Peeling began with workers ringing the tree at its base, and again, four feet above the initial ring. This thickest and most valuable section of bark was then slit between the marks and the bark removed in one to four sections. After peeling this lower section, the tree was cut down, more bark removed, and the wood and treetop left in the forest to decay. According to Warren Ormsbey, a tanbark peeler in the late 1890s, "it was considered a day's work if a team could peel two cords of bark per day. In those days we worked six days a week from 6 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock at night." Working as a peeler supported many of the early homesteaders in the regions of Southern Humboldt.

The dried wood and tree branches later fueled many wildfires, especially in the 1910s and 20s in the Bull Creek region of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Newspaper accounts from the period describe the thick smoke making visibility difficult, dramatically describing that at one point, residents could not see across Bull Creek due to the smoke. Due to the extensive harvesting of tanbark and the fires, many of the trees were eliminated, but over the intervening years, many of the tanbark groves have recovered, and their acorns are easily seen by hikers during the fall season.

Once peeled, the bark was stacked and left to dry in the woods. The bark rolled up as it dried and the rolls hauled by mule train or wagons to shipping ports. The logging display at the Visitors Center by Burlington features some of these rolled up pieces of tanbark. While some of Humboldt counties' tanbark was destined for local tanneries, the majority was shipped to facilities near San Francisco. In 1889, 3,840,000 pounds of tanbark shipped from Humboldt Bay and from a port at the mouth of Bear River. There, a railroad from Petrolia brought the tanbark that was loaded onto ships by cable system. Another important shipping point was at South Fork once the railroad reached that locale in 1912. From 1889 to 1893 over \$33,000 worth of tanbark was peeled and shipped from Humboldt County.

At Briceland, on the way to the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park, in Southern Humboldt, another tactic was explored. In 1904, the Wagner Leather Company of Stockton built a \$25,000 mill, to extract acid from the bark and only the resulting resin was shipped. Willis Jepson noted in *Tanbark Oak and the Tanning Industry* that "a cord of dry bark, 2,200 pounds, is reduced to 50 gallons of extract, which weighs about 550 pounds. The extractor has a capacity of 12 cords a day."

The tanoak industry reached its height near the turn of the twentieth century, and by the 1930s came to an end as new products took the place of the tanbark in tanning hides and leather became less important of a commodity. Very little remains of this once thriving industry, and yet it played an important role in the settlement and economy of Humboldt County.



Jim and Birdie Boots are shown hauling a load of Tanbark in this image from the HRIA collection.

Before and After

By Cheryl Stone, HRSP Volunteer

Having been on nearly all of the trails either by horseback or hiking, I have developed a deep love affair with our redwoods. After over ten years of exploring, it wasn't until this year that I discovered the beauty of the river trail. Fellow volunteer, Kathy Hawley, took me under her wing and showed me the wonders of the opposite side of the Eel. I realized that this particular part of HRSP is just as wonderful as all the rest.

In September of 2003 we had a catastrophic fire in the Canoe Creek area which closed the portion of the river trail south of Williams Grove. We had been hearing rumors this past late winter and early spring that RTR had been working on the portion of the trail closed by the fire to Children's Grove. Anxiously awaiting, as soon as it was open, we went! I was pleasantly surprised by how the scorched area had recovered; brightly colored flora was newly growing in all directions, and it was absolutely beautiful!

On August 14th of this year, we had a fire off of the river trail close to Women's Federation Grove. Fortunately, it was contained to approximately two acres. We took the trail in that direction shortly after. The destruction was awful to see, highlighted by the red of the recently dropped fire retardant. Sadly, a large beautiful redwood was lost. However, having seen the rejuvenation of that long ago fire in Children's Forest, I knew it would be beautiful once again given time.



Although scary and difficult to face the aftermath, fires can sometimes be good for the forest, and these trails really put this into perspective. I am so grateful to be a small part of the park and HRIA, in order to hug these awesome giants and share with the people who come here, passing along the stories of the forest, such as these.

Redwood House

By Laurel Franklin, HRSP Volunteer

The spring and redwood forest and clear blue sky
are my furniture

The duff, prairie flowers and soil are my floors
They never need cleaning

The mountain lion is my evening guest
And she is my reminder of respect and humility
And I respect her deeply
And I am deeply humbled

The moon and the sun are my lamps
They are solar and free
So am I

I pull up my pant legs, cross the river
Enter the redwood fortress
This is home to me
This is where I will be





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Summer 2015

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**GIVE A GIFT MEMBERSHIP TO THE
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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
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