



Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

President's Report: Alan Aitken

The summer season is underway with the completion of the May marathon. At the Saturday marathon sign-in, HRIA entered a new phase of our interpretive mission with the launching of the Humboldt Redwood Discover Nature phone application. The HRIA executive director, myself, along with the creators of the Discover Nature Company set up a booth at the sign-in to introduce visitors to our new interpretive platform.

Anyone can download the application to their phone by first going to the application store on their phone. Download the Discover Nature application, and once downloaded, click the Humboldt Redwoods icon at the top of the home page and download that portion of the app. You're done! The information for Humboldt Redwoods State Park is in your phone and you no longer need an internet connection.

You don't need to be at the Visitor Center or in the park to use the app. From the couch in your home you can review the information in the application, learn about the redwood park, the flowers, the animals, ecology, and the history. When in the park, using your phone's GPS function, the app will show your location on a map of the park, and give you access to the game portion you can use when at the Founders Grove or on the Gould Trail across the road from the Visitor Center. In the local resources section, you can get GPS coordinates and a photo of popular trailheads, along with a short description of trails to help you plan and navigate your visit.



Providing interpretive information to the visitors either in person, over the internet through our website, and now through smart phone technology, to enhance the visitor's park experience is our mission.

Alan Aitken

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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.

On your next visit to Humboldt
Redwoods State Park...

Download the Discover Nature App!



DISCOVER NATURE
DOWNLOAD TODAY AND... FIND NATURE FUN!

The Discover Nature App provides...

- information about the redwoods, history, and ecology-
- trail locations, descriptions, and photos-
- interactive games-
- options to upload photos and locations of sightings of interest-
- and *soon to come*, local businesses and services for visitors convenience-

Managers Report

By Debbie Gardner, Manager

Happy day to all! Memorial Day weekend was busy as expected, we saw at least 700 people each day at the Humboldt Redwoods Visitor Center alone. A big thank you to our volunteers who served the many guests that came through our doors. They answered thousands of questions and really made the visitors experience much more personal. We certainly couldn't do it without you!

We have new t-shirts at Humboldt Redwoods and Richardson Grove Visitor Centers, they are a great seller. They are modern fit and made in the USA. At the Richardson Grove Visitor Center, we have new beach towels to use at the river, and take home as a reminder of your favorite swimming spot. We also have the new Richardson Grove design on men's and women's t-shirts and women's tank tops. The Richardson Grove Visitor Center is featured as a business of the week by the Southern Humboldt Chamber of Commerce. It is a beautiful and historic building nestled between the giant redwoods and Eel River... the perfect spot for a meeting, party, reception, or event! Contact us at 707-946-2263 or vc@humboldtreedwoods.org for more information.



Mounted Assistance Unit

By Pat Farmer, MAU Member

It's an honor to introduce myself as one of the founding members of the Mounted Assistance Unit. Nearly twenty years ago, public meetings were held to discuss the proposed trail closures within Humboldt Redwoods State Park, including Indian Orchard trail. Little did I know that in standing up to deliver an impassioned plea for leaving that trail in place, I would be volunteering to form a group hoping to strengthen relationships between local equestrians and the park. With oversight from the Rangers and much support from the Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association, we have accomplished that goal and more. It's been many years of friendship, fun, frustrations and hard work!

Several equestrian partners have joined me in my time with the MAU. Many of our members are more loyal to their mounts, fine-tuning their horses over the years. I had more of a revolving door approach as my needs and interests changed over the years. In my younger days (aka my 40's) there were the spicy Arabians: the appropriately named Airborne and the beloved Calvin, whose motto on the trail was "You can never be too careful". Then the more settled horses: Joey and Justice and Kramer. Now I have a horse who is rapidly earning the 'best horse ever' title: Malibu, named in honor of his beach boy blond look and his "yah, okay, whatever" personality. On the trails he likes nothing better than posing for photos with park visitors and standing with a dreamy look on his face as some horse-crazy youngster pets his soft nose.

In my day job I'm a nurse and nurse practitioner. After 25 years working in the Emergency Room, I've shifted to teaching, research, and some truly fascinating work in Washington, DC. Gallup polls tell us nurses have been the #1 most trusted profession for sixteen of the last seventeen years. Not the most trusted health profession; the most trusted profession overall! That enormous honor carries a big responsibility to preserve the public trust. In my DC role, I've worked to build stronger systems to enhance the contributions of nurses to public health and wellness.



As I was thinking about this article, I reflected on my favorite part of being an MAU member, and it turns out to be.... almost everything. It's such an amazing team, from Marilyn Renner, who rescued me from wallowing in poison oak, to Uri Driscoll, who only sighs a little before he gets up to tack on a shoe to our fearless leader Cathy Mathena. So many friends, old and new. Cuneo Creek campground and the nearby trails must surely be one of the most beautiful places in the world to ride and camp. I've seen the MAU advance in our responsibilities and contributions and more than anything I love the feeling that I've joined this wonderful group in stewardship of the park. Such a privilege and good fun besides.

When I was a little girl, I used to daydream about someday riding a magical horse in a magical land, doing good for the world. Look! Here I am, filled with gratitude at a dream come true.

Benbow Campground Re-opening

By Jordan Lager, Richardson Grove Senior Park Aide



For the first summer in seven years, the Benbow State Recreation Area campground will be filled with the sounds of voices and crackling campfires. Budget cuts closed the campground in 2011, but in 2018 Benbow found itself next on the list for ADA renovation, which prompted the reopening. The California State Parks ADA Crew travels the state inspecting and repairing disability accommodations in the parks. Their work is essential to ensure that California State Parks are accessible to everyone. Disabled visitors will have several newly improved ADA approved campsites to choose from, as well as accessible restrooms and a campfire center. State Park Maintenance staff has also put forth a tremendous

effort to repair old facilities and clear seven years of overgrown brush from the campsites.

The campground is open to the public from Friday, May 25th through Sunday, September 2nd. Forty-six campsites will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Rates are \$35 per night for regular campsites, and \$45 per night for premium campsites with river access (36-39, 41, 42, and 46).

Those who have used the Benbow SRA Campground in the past will notice some differences today. The most obvious is the absence of the dam and “lake”. The removal of the eighty-six-year-old dam was completed in October 2017, and was welcomed by fish and anglers alike. Remnants of the dam can be seen at the end of the Thrap Mill Trail past the old mill site. State Parks and other agencies are working together to monitor and restore the area following the dam removal. Native plants and trees have also been planted throughout the campground in an effort to restore the park to its natural beauty.



100th Anniversary of Save-the-Redwoods-League

By Susan O'Hara, HRIA Board Member

As we approach the end of the second decade of the 2000s, many important centennials in local history are being reached. The most important to Humboldt Redwoods State Park and the other Redwood State Parks is the 100th anniversary of the Save-the-Redwoods League. 2018 marks 100 years of effort by the league to preserve and protect the redwoods, especially those that lie along the South Fork of the Eel River. The League founders John C. Merriam, Madison Grant and Fairfield Osborn, had traveled to the Dyerville region in 1917 at



the behest of Stephen Mather, who was at the time, the National Parks Director. The conservationists from the San Francisco Bay Area were amazed by the rapid destruction of the redwood forests along the South Fork. In 1917 the U.S. Forest service reported that 487,458,000 board feet of redwood had been cut in California.

Contributing to the logging of the trees were several factors. The Northwestern Pacific Railroad had been completed in 1914, connecting the forests to the mills at Scotia and in Eureka. Furthermore, there was an increasing demand for split products, such as grapestakes, shingles, and railroad ties. Many small

camps had been established in the area including McKee's Mill in what is now Weott and in the area of Burlington Campground. Furthermore, the larger mill companies had an increasing demand for lumber from the Bay Area that was still rebuilding from the disasters of the 1906 earthquake. Also causing damage to the redwoods was the construction of the Redwood Highway, that would be completed in 1922. The Save-the-Redwoods League on their website note the founders believed the redwood forest, “would have no future unless ‘people of good will acted’. They thus committed to protecting the coast redwood and giant sequoia forests by purchasing multiple ancient groves and establishing a state or national park to protect them. The next year, in the spring of 1918, the three friends and allied conservationists channeled their sense of urgency and reorganized the league to ensure the permanent survival of the ancient redwoods.”

The Save-the-Redwoods League (SRL) met with fertile ground, with many individuals and organizations donating money to the cause. In Humboldt County there was a great deal of interest in preserving the trees. In 1919 the Women's Save-the-Redwoods League of Humboldt was formed. These women worked to raise money and awareness about the need to preserve the redwoods. They were not always successful, but SRL was not limited in its search for support and funding to Humboldt County or even to California. They made Nation-wide appeals for support, and wrote many articles printed in Newspapers across the United States and the world urging the preservation of the redwoods. In 1919 Madison Grant wrote an article in the New York Zoological Society Magazine about the need to preserve the redwoods. He advocated for the formation of a National Park to protect the trees. However, he was aware of how slow the Federal government worked, and so was the need to take immediate action. In 1920 SRL was incorporated as a non-profit organization, and with its continuing solicitation of funds, was able to purchase its first grove along the South Fork of the Eel.

The League was supported in its search for the grove to be preserved by the father of the man the grove was ultimately dedicated to: Colonel Raynal C. Bolling. A native of Hot Springs, Arkansas, Bolling was the first high ranking U.S. officer killed in WWI. He died March 26, 1918 near Amiens, France. He and his driver were killed while attempting to reach the front. Bolling tried to save his driver's life before he too was hit. Bolling's bravery was recognized by the army with an air force base in Washington D.C. being named for him. Bolling's father and brother in law, Dr. J.C. Phillips of Wenham, Massachusetts had advertised in The Timberman, a magazine of the timber industry to find the grove, and Phillips paid for the grove to be purchased. The San Bernardino Daily Sun reported on Aug. 14, 1921, "such a monument will grow in grandeur and beauty from year to year while monuments of stone will disappear and that which they commemorate be forgotten."



The Oxnard Press Courier in Feb. 1921 described Bolling grove as being "situated at the junction of Elk Creek and the South Fork of the Eel River, about 45 miles from Eureka, California, in the heart of the most representative areas of Sequoia Sempervirens, or redwoods." The actual dedication of the grove occurred in August of 1921. The Humboldt Standard reported that nearly 350 people gathered at the grove for the dedication. Speakers including Madison Grant, who urged the American Legion to purchase more groves in honor of fallen soldiers as a better way to honor those men than monuments of stone. Grant also pointed out that it was "the duty for Americans to guard and to preserve what little is left of this (nature) heritage." He ended his comments with the admonition, "let us dedicate ourselves to the task of keeping and preserving in its natural beauty a country which is worth fighting for."

Following the success of the purchase and dedication of this first grove, the SRL went on to preserve many more thousands of acres of redwoods along the South Fork of the Eel River, and those north along Prairie Creek and in Del Norte County, the SRL website noting that, "Richardson Grove was established in Southern Humboldt County in 1922, and the first acquisitions for Del Norte Coast Redwood Park were made in 1924." The groves preserved along the South Fork became known as Humboldt Redwoods, and in 1927, when the California State Parks was formed, they became formally known as Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

Happy Birthday, and thank you to the Founders and members of the Save-the-Redwoods League for working for 100 years to preserve the redwoods for the enjoyment of future generations of nature lovers.

Third Annual Earth Day at Usal Beach

By Bruce Hilbach-Barger, HRIA Usal Project Coordinator

The HRIA Usal Project has begun its second season with our third Earth Day volunteer clean up event sponsored by a California State Parks Foundation- Earth Day Grant. Thirty one volunteers participated, 15 from Mendocino, Humboldt and Lake Counties; 8 from Sonoma and Marin; and 8 from east of Sacramento including Lake Tahoe. More than half the volunteers worked all day or longer, while others just pitched in briefly.



Invasive English Ivy was removed from 134 trees, and 174 Pampas Grass seed heads were cut and bagged. Five Campfire Rings were cleaned; 9 Campsites were prepared for the season; 1 Picnic Table was repaired by a camper and 2 tables were retrieved from the island. Greenery and branches from two fallen Redwood trees were removed from a road and campsite as well as the trunk of the smaller (28 inch diameter) tree. A father/daughter (6 years old) team led the effort to spruce up the outhouses, removing brush, posting maps, and picking up trash while others cleaned the outhouses.

Eel River Sector Rangers, the Sector Superintendent and Maintenance Worker 1 contributed 40 combined hours of direct support, leading up to the event and on the Saturday April 21st Earth Day. Volunteer hours totaled 155 with Ken Haas and Carla Thomas supporting the entire weekend. Campers joined us impromptu and families came from nearby communities to participate in the day.

Usal Project staff, Ranger and Superintendent contact with visitors, Parks maintenance attention, and extensive informal volunteer efforts are clearly improving conditions on the ground at Usal. Two different volunteer groups humorously complained that there “wasn’t enough trash to pick up.” Other inappropriate behaviors were in evidence and the HRIA Usal Project Team continues to work with the North Coast Redwoods District Eel River Sector of DPR and other collaborators to improve the situation at Usal beach.

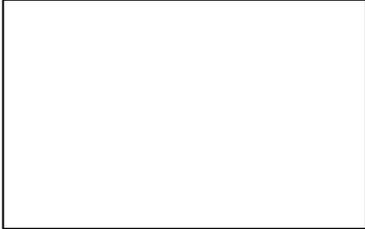
We are continuing conversations with Usal Visitors to help create a viable Usal Beach Plan. Ranger Andrea Mapes has become the Adopt-A-Beach program liaison. Work continues with local school districts, Save the Redwoods League, RFFI (manager of the 50,000 acre Usal Forest), HRIA and DPR to create an outdoor classroom program at Usal Beach. Support for these HRIA educational initiatives has been provided by the California State Parks Foundation, a California Coastal Commission Whale Tail grant, a California Coastal Conservancy Explore the Coast Grant, and DPR and Save the Redwoods League grant funds.





Return Service Requested

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Interpretive Association**
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Spring 2018

**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	\$_____
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