



Summer/Fall 2019 Newsletter

Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

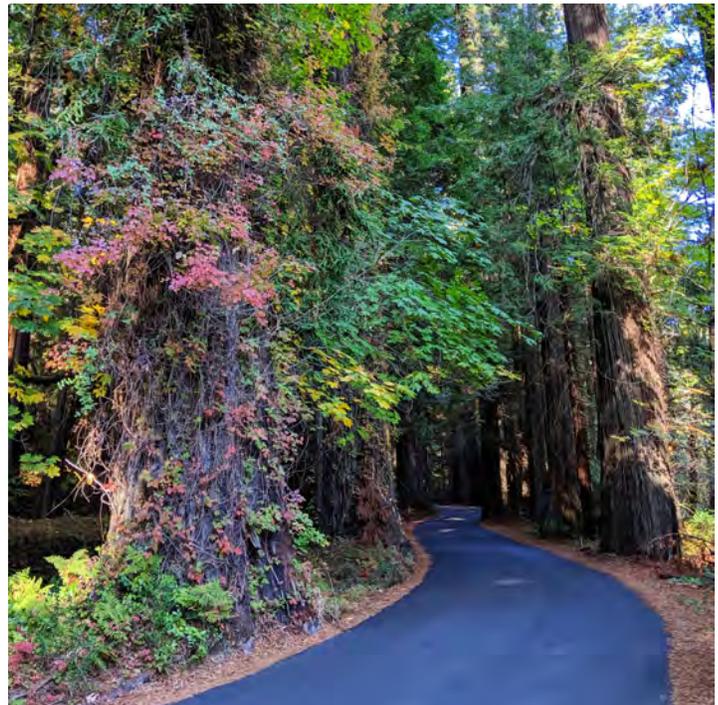
President's Report: Alan Aitken

Fall has arrived in the Redwoods. Another summer season has passed and with the hard work of our staff and volunteers, HRIA has met its mission to interpret this unique environment to thousands of visitors. Thank you seems inadequate recognition for your outstanding work.

HRIA is constantly trying to enhance the Visitor Center experience. The Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor Center theater has been improved with new interpretive panels. Additionally, the old projector and screen have recently been replaced with an 82 inch, high definition flat screen. Our updated theater was in part made possible by a generous donation in honor of HRIA member Martha Villanueva's 90th birthday. This upgrade has greatly enhanced the viewing experience of thousands of visitors and eliminates the requirement to dim the lights to view videos. New interpretive panels have also been installed in the museum room.

As with any volunteer organization, for various reason, board vacancies occur from time to time. HRIA is currently looking for new board members to keep our organization moving into the future. Do you want to contribute where your efforts will be appreciated by people from around the world? Contact our Executive Director, Sophia, to find out how.

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, 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.

A letter warmly received by HRIA...

"A few weeks ago we had the joy of returning to Humboldt Redwoods after more than a decade away. We had gone yearly when we were first married (1976 was our first trip) and then when the kids were little (favorite campsite Burlington #28). Over time they grew into teenagers, and then college, marriages, babies... We had talked up the park for years but didn't really want to go without them.

And so we planned, organized, reserved and went. The grandkids (12, 10, 6, and 4) were excited but skeptical that it could really be that majestic and beautiful. ('Cause sometimes Papa tells tall tales). We had two in our car on the way up (~6.5 hours) and they asked, "are we there yet?" We told them, "When you can't see the sky because of the trees, we're there." At one glorious moment on the Avenue of the Giants, the 10 year old exclaimed, "I can't see the sky!" And we replied, "We're here."

The trip (tent camping was every bit as much fun we had promised them), including the 6 year old's FIRST s'more, hiking around Founder's Grove, swimming in the Eel River, campfires every night, getting rained on... was better than we had hoped. And they loved the Visitor's Center – the displays and the staff were great.

This is why we have been Lifetime members of HRIA since 1996, and why we ALL want to go back very soon. We are unashamedly in love with the Redwoods all over again."

Gregg & Patty Nulton

Managers Report

By Debbie Gardner, Manager

Happy day to all! Summer is over and the fall colors are out. Here at the Visitor Center we have been busy, lots of visitors from all over the world coming to see our beautiful parks.

Recently, a couple came in and showed me the most unusual object, a wooden post card from the 1920's made from a redwood limb cookie. The postage is still on it with 2 cent stamps. After we talked about it, I joked that they could donate it to us, thinking they would have said, no - but they said yes! Wayne Ramsell, one of our volunteers at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, is a wonder in woodworking. He made a base and frame for it so we can display it at the Visitor Center, and now this unique little piece of history can be seen by thousands. A BIG shout out to Mr. and Mrs. James – thank you.



With the holidays just around the corner, a reminder that we will be closed Thanksgiving Day, as well as Christmas Day. Also, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting and party will be on

December 11th at the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor Center. Once again, we will have a silent auction, a visit from Santa, and refreshments. If anyone has something to donate to HRIA for the silent auction, please contact us at 707-946-2263. All proceeds help support our local parks! On Saturday December 14th, the Southern Humboldt Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual Holiday Mixer at the Richardson Grove State Park Visitor Center. Both events are open to the public and we hope to see you there.

Last but not least, A BIG THANK YOU to all the volunteers, we couldn't do it without you. If anyone is interested in volunteering please call 707-946-2263 or e-mail vc@humboldtreedwoods.org. Have a great day and see ya soon at the Visitor Center.

Long Time Docents of Founders Grove

By Codi Remington, Humboldt Redwoods Park Interpreter

24 years later . . . here at Humboldt Redwoods State Park we are fortunate enough to have two amazing, long term summer volunteers, Dick and Shirley Sacco. They have been coming to volunteer in Humboldt Redwoods for the past 24 years and you can find these two at Founders Grove, Thursday through Sunday, 11:30 to 3:30 during the busy summer months. They volunteer two months annually and talk with over 15,000 visitors each year. Stationed near Founders Tree they greet everyone warmly. Within seconds, they have visitors laughing

and chatting with them like old friends. Dick and Shirley provide visitors with an array of knowledge about the redwoods and about the history of the park they both love so much.



They remind visitors of the importance of staying on the trail--how straying from the trail causes damage to the plants that carpet the redwood forest. This summer they were ecstatic to find State Parks had installed a split rail fence (pictured) to keep visitors on trail. They wanted to thank PMS Mark Casanova, SMA David Wrisley, Supervising Ranger Thomas Valterria and Ranger Blair Pubols for all the effort and resources put toward the project. Year after year they have stressed the importance of staying on the trail for the sake of preserving the beauty of the understory vegetation. They are passionate about engaging the public and spreading positive messages that protect the natural features that make our park special. They are pictured here in front of a new split rail fence that blocks off areas at Founders Grove to rehabilitate plant life after many years of high impact visitor use. Dick and Shirley have volunteered for a grand total of 12,000 volunteer hours between the two of them. Thank you, Dick and Shirley Sacco!

Mounted Assistance Unit

By Cathy Mathena, HRIA Board Member & MAU Member

Summer for the Mounted Assistance Unit was full of warm rides on nice trails. Pictured on the far left and right are two prospective 2019 volunteers Ann-Sohpie Andrews and Jacque Murphy. They are doing their apprentice year under the direction of two seasoned volunteers, Anna Dotson on the middle left and Cindy Giacomini on the middle right.

Each new prospective volunteer is required to ride a minimum of twelve hours in



Humboldt Redwoods State Park with a seasoned Mounted Assistance Unit volunteer. This helps new prospectives learn the rules and trails they will be riding on.



MAU Volunteers, David Pritchard and Mary Moore, reported this slide that completely covered a section of Johnson Trail. Using a riding app they have on their phones, they were able to give exact coordinates of the slide. This with the photo was extremely helpful for the trail crew to plan and execute the need repairs. Some trails are several miles long. Maintenance crews hiking with tools and equipment need to know the fastest way to get to the problem. Riding apps help facilitate this. Many people believe that taking their cell phone on a hike or ride is distracting. This can defiantly be true but one can also turn off the volume to hear the sounds of nature undisturbed. You never know when you may need to alert someone to a problem or issue. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words.

More Good News for the Sinkyone

By Carla Thomas, HRIA Usal Project Staff

HRIA received two more grants this year. The Coastal Conservancy awarded \$43,325 from the Explore the Coast Grant to HRIA to support its Usal Beach Environmental Restoration Education Program. The HRIA interpretive instructors teach across the curriculum and integrate content with each teacher to provide maximum support in the small communities of Laytonville, Leggett, Round Valley, Spy Rock, Briceland and Whale Gulch. This grant is focused on teacher capacity building to use place based experiential classroom and Sinkyone field trip learning experiences for the children. This grant builds on the successes of a prior ETC grant that was completed last fall.



HRIA also received a \$5,000 grant from the Save the Redwoods League for school trips to Usal Beach for the second year in a row. These funds will provide additional experiential place based learning trips to Usal Beach for school children.

Needle Rock chimney is getting a seismic upgrade. The upgrade will allow us to start using the fireplace once again to heat the Visitor Center Great Room for our visitors. Cracks had formed in the chimney ten years ago preventing its use as heat source.

The Needle Rock Road was closed for over 7 months by winter landslides and slip outs. Mendocino County Roads Department worked diligently clearing the road. It is once again open.

Smokey Bear's 75th Birthday

By Shanna Archibold, Humboldt Redwoods Park Interpreter &
Sophia Eckert, HRIA Executive Director

This year two birthday parties were held for Smokey's 75th Birthday in August at the campfire centers at Humboldt Redwoods State Park and Grizzly Creek State Park.

At Grizzly Creek (pictured right) a small, but enthusiastic, group of about 30 people braved the forecasted rain to enjoy the campfire led by Park Interpreter Shanna and meet Smokey Bear. Bridgeville Cal Fire team, musician Vicky Cassar, Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association, and Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park worked together to provide this fun evening.



At Humboldt Redwoods State Park, a similar evening of songs, games, education and cupcakes was enjoyed by over 120 participants. Ranger John Hardcastle lead the program with help from Park Interpreters. The Weott Cal Fire team was able to attend, as was Smokey Bear himself (pictured below). Thanks to all who helped and participated.



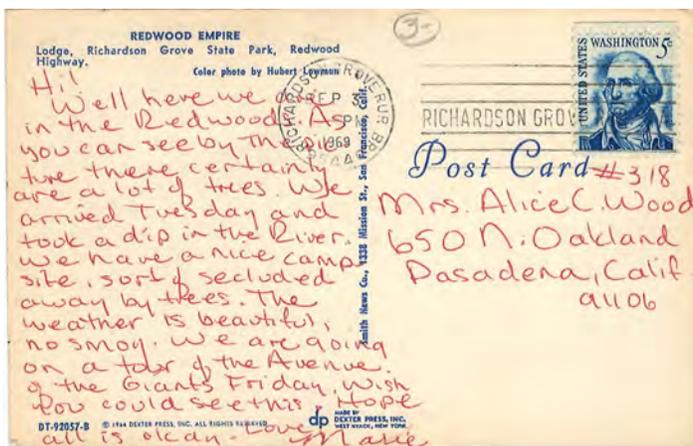
Postcard Collection Comes to Life

By Sophia Eckert, HRIA Executive Director

On a late summer afternoon, Robert Loman and his wife stopped by the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor Center. Mr. Loman came to the counter with his selected postcards to purchase. As HRIA volunteer David Pritchard rang him up, they began chatting about postcards, and Mr. Loman explained that his father used to travel all along the Redwood Highway taking photos for postcards. Before we knew it, Mr. Loman was looking through HRIA's postcard collection, which was generously donated to us in 2017 by HRIA member Karl DeBoer. Within minutes of browsing through the collection, Mr. Loman found a postcard with a photo of the Richardson Grove State Park Visitor Center that was taken by his father, Hubert A. Loman, 1913-2006. Hubert A. Loman, from Covina CA, began taking photos in the late 1940's and was actively doing photography through the 1960's for magazines, advertisements, posters, newspapers, postcards, etc. His archives can be found in the special collections portion of the Claremont College Library.



It's incredible to think about what all a 3.5x5" two dimensional piece of paper can contain. It was interesting hearing Robert's stories about his father, his travels collecting photographs, and how his legacy continues to live on through his photos, stashed away in collections in unexpected places. And this is only one aspect of the story. On the other side of the postcard, messages unlock a whole other narrative, as we can see where a postcard was sent from, where it was sent to, etc. Our imaginations can run wild thinking about what traveling the redwood highway was like then, what was playing on the radio, what route these people may have taken on their September roadtrip, and what adventures they may have encountered.



This particular postcard, sent from Richardson Grove to Pasadena California reads: "Hi! Well here we are in the Redwoods. As you can see by the picture there certainly are a lot of trees. We arrived Tuesday and took a dip in the River. We have a nice campsite, sort of secluded away by the trees. The weather is beautiful, no smog. We are going on a tour of the Avenue of the Giants Friday. Wish you could see this. Hope all is ok. Love, Marie"



Return Service Requested

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

Summer/Fall 2019

**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		

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**HRIA
PO Box 276
Weott, CA 95571**

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