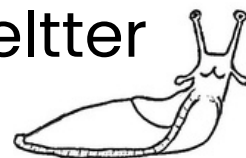




HUMBOLDT REDWOODS INTERPRETIVE ASSOCIATION

Fall/Winter 2026 Newseltter



PRESIDENT'S REPORT: SUSAN O'HARA

Fall is a special time of the year in the redwoods. While Northern California does not boast hillsides of orange, yellow, and red, the big leaf maple always makes a show against the dark redwood trunks with their bright yellow leaves. More muted colors can be seen in the hazelnut and other deciduous trees in the undergrowth. The show stealer is of course the poison oak whose fall colors make up a bit for the rash it can give unsuspecting passers-by.

Our HRIA board took the opportunity to enjoy the fall colors as they toured the four Visitor Centers operated by the volunteer association. The visitor center at Grizzly Creek while small, is packed with information about the redwoods. The campground is now closed for the season, but will open again in May. I encourage you to stop and explore the center, with its exhibits on local wildlife, including an iconic campground sight, the raccoon in a trash can, reminding all to keep their food locked up. A beautiful mosaic mushroom created by artist Jen a'Midi is one of the highlights. The mosaic has images of otters, eagles, and other local wildlife.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HRIA Executive Director
Sophia Eckert

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Cooperating Association Liaison
Alyssa Barry
Karla Jovel

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 Recreation Area, 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.

YOU'RE INVITED TO HRIA'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!



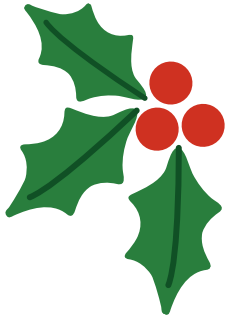
**SANTA, TREE LIGHTING,
SILENT AUCTION, TASTY
TREATS, & LOTS OF FUN!**

**WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 2
5:30-7:30**

**HUMBOLDT
REDWOODS
STATE PARK
VISITOR CENTER**

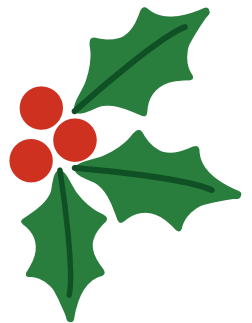


The Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association received over 75 donations towards our silent auction for our annual Holiday Party. We greatly appreciate the support of our community businesses and artists. A huge *THANK YOU* to the following donors:



AVENUE CAFE
REDWOOD PALACE
MIRANDA MARKET
BLOCK & TACKLE DESIGNS
DAILY GRIND
BENBOW HISTORIC INN
LEGEND OF BIGFOOT
GARDEN OF BEADIN'
BLUE MOON GIFT SHOP
PAPER MILL OFFICE SUPPLY
BOOTLEG CLOTHING
GOT RESPECT SHIPPING & MAILING STORE
PEG HOUSE
CHIMNEY TREE GRILL
SCOTIA LODGE
MY HUMBOLDT ABODE
REDCREST RESORT & GIFT SHOP
CHAPMAN'S GEM & MINERAL SHOP
REDWOOD CAPITAL BANK
US BANK
RAY'S FOOD PLACE
COAST CENTRAL CREDIT UNION
COLUMBIA BANK
STARBUCKS
MOUNTAIN MIKES PIZZA
HOPPY'S FROYO
O'REILY'S AUTO PARTS
HIPPI CUP COFFEE ROASTERS
HUMBOLDT HONEY, WINE, & FARM STAND
KOME
ACTION REALTY
GROCERY OUTLET
ONE OF ONE BARBER STUDIO
BLACKSMITH SHOP
FERNDALE EMPORIUM
TUYAS MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CANTINA
THE MILK HOUSE
THE SHIRE

FERNDALE PIZZA CO.
SHAW HOUSE
FERNDALE ART GALLERY
REDEYE LABORATORIES
IVANHOE BAR
SITKA WINE LOUNGE
GINGERBREAD MANSION
SWEETNESS & LIGHT CHOCOLATES
HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR CRUISES
PIERSON BUILDING CENTER
PICKY PICKY PICKY
LIVING THE DREAM ICE CREAM
SEQUOIA PARK ZOO
STU'S BREWS
EUREKA BOOKS
REDWOOD NAILS
COSTCO
CALIFORNIA WELCOME CENTER
EUREKA NATURAL FOODS
SHAFER'S ACE HARDWARE
TANDOORI BITES PIZZA
ABRAXAS SHOES & LEATHER
HABIT BURGER
BAYSIDE GARDEN SUPPLY
HOLLY YASHI JEWELRY & ART
BELL & HOOK OUTDOOR STORE
LOS BAGELS
ARCATA PIZZA & DELI
MIA BELLA CUPCAKES
HENSEL'S ACE HARDWARE
REVOLUTION BIKES
REDWOOD YOGURT
HEART BEAD
SOUL TO SOUL SPA
CAFE MOKKA
SELENE JOY DESIGNS
THE MINOR THEATER
SALT FISH HOUSE



Thank you for your support, Humboldt!

...President's Report continued from page 1

Her work is also featured at the Humboldt Redwoods State Park (HRSP) visitor center where she created an otter, named Tce yac. Along with changing merchandise and rotating seasonal tables, be sure to check out the center, as there is always something new to see. Richardson Grove's beautiful center is always worth exploring; the mosaic for Richardson's Grove is a river scene complete with mushrooms and otters. The fourth center operated by HRIA is located at Sinkyone Wilderness, and is well worth the drive to see the dramatic landscape where land and sea meet. The center is located in an old farmhouse that dates to the Gold Rush era and afterwards, when access was by ship, and dog-hole ports. If anyone is interested in volunteering at one of these locations, please contact Director Sophia at the HRSP center.



The end of October also brings the annual Halloween Candlelit Walk at Humboldt Redwoods State Park. This year the haunted decorations were found around the Visitor Center while the trail was lit with over 1,000 luminaries. The event was free, and included a movie, hot chocolate and donuts, and of course the "spooky" center to explore.

As the year comes to a close, it is also time to think about renewing your membership to HRIA. In addition to the newsletter, you also receive a discount at all the visitor

centers. Please renew your membership as the dues help to support interpretive activities at all four parks. Hope to see you soon in the redwoods!

*Sincerely,
Susan O'Hara*

MAU FALL WORK WEEKEND AND EMILY'S TREE

BY PAT FARMER, HRIA SECRETARY & MAU MEMBER

Members of the Mounted Assistance Unit gathered on October 3 at Cuneo Creek for our fall work weekend and campout. As always at this time of year, the campground was 'put to bed' for the winter. Each campsite was evaluated, with fire rings and bear boxes tidied, overhanging branches removed and water troughs cleaned. The sand pit was raked, smoothed and covered with tarps. The usual futile efforts were made to fill the worst of the holes created by the ground squirrels.

Throughout the summer, trails have been cleared and patrolled. Horse water troughs were substantially repaired (thank you, Dennis Sousa!).

Six current members of MAU completed testing on new equines and all passed with flying colors. We have one new incoming member for 2027, Mr. Jon Niehaus.

After a hard day of work, Humboldt Redwood Interpretive Association provided tri-tip roast for dinner, expertly prepared by David Pritchard. HRIA staff Mary and Olivia joined us and provided lovely gift bags, as well as certificates acknowledging the many hours of volunteer service. Chief Ranger Valterria was recently honored with the CA State Parks Professional Integrity Award – well deserved!

Supervising Ranger Alyssa Barry and Chief Ranger Thomas Valterria provided some updates:

- Efforts to drill a new well in camp were unsuccessful
- HRSP has a new Ranger, Gavin Murray
- Maintenance Supervisor Mark Cassanova retired and no replacement has been named yet
- The cell booster (for use by staff and volunteers) is in place at the Cuneo kiosk
- Bat survey equipment placed by USFS in Albee Creek campground will be removed in mid-October

Over the weekend, a tree was placed in memory of Ranger Emily Peterson Becker, the first SP Ranger for the MAU. With guidance from Bill



Weigle the group selected an Aesculus California, or California Buckeye. So many things called out to us about this very special tree. Aesculus californica is a California native and does not grow wild in any other part of the world. It is local to the HRSP area, but Emily's tree will be the only specimen at Cuneo Creek. It can appear as a shrub or a tree and adapts to a variety of soil conditions. California Buckeye is the first tree to leaf out in spring, one of the last to bloom, and the first to lose leaves in the fall. It is a hardy plant, but it blooms with a delicate white or pale pink flower. Emily's tree has a place of honor at the western edge of

the Day Use area, where it can be viewed as one enters the campground. Although it should be over 15 feet tall and a similar width when full grown, our baby tree is about two feet tall! MAU expresses gratitude to Samara Restoration, who donated the tree, and to State Park staff who provided the necessary approvals for the tree and its new location.

BRINGING PARKS TO THE CLASSROOM

BY ERIKA GRANADINO, INTERPRETER I

During the fall and winter months, when the trails grow quiet and rainy weather keeps many school groups from visiting the redwoods, California State Parks Interpreters from Humboldt Redwoods State Park are hard at work bringing the wonders of our parks directly to local students.

Launched in 2024, Parks Goes After School (PGAS) is a unique program offered exclusively in the North Coast Redwoods District (NCRD). The program was born from a simple idea: if students aren't coming to the

parks during the colder, rainier months, why not bring the parks to them? Designed to bridge the gap between students and the great outdoors, PGAS brings engaging, park-inspired educational experiences directly to local after-school programs, helping students connect with nature without ever leaving their school grounds.



Pictured: State Park Interpreters Ellie Frazier and Erika Granadino present to a group of students about bats at Lafayette Elementary School

Through a partnership with the Humboldt County Office of Education (HCOE) Expanded Learning Program, NCRD has worked closely with local schools to coordinate interactive presentations that spark curiosity and foster an appreciation for the natural world. Students have explored a wide range of fascinating topics, from the yucky, stinky wonders of the redwood forest to the amazing bats that migrate through our local parks.

These presentations bring the spirit of a traditional State Parks campfire program into the classroom, blending education, storytelling, and entertainment into a fun and memorable experience. And the highlight? Students have the opportunity to earn their very own California State Parks Junior Ranger badge!

Since its launch, Parks Goes After School has visited more than 21 different after-school programs, reaching over 2,000 students throughout Humboldt County! The program's popularity continues to grow, with available presentation slots often filling up in less than a day.

More than just an educational presentation, Parks Goes After School helps break down barriers to outdoor education, introduces students to the incredible natural resources in their own backyard, and inspires the next generation of environmental stewards. By bringing the park experience directly to students, NCRD continues to create meaningful connections between local communities and their California State Parks.

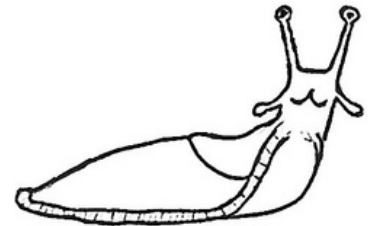


**Humboldt Redwoods
Interpretive Association
PO Box 276
Weott, CA 95571
vc@humboldtreduwoods.org**

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. Call 707-946-2263 to find out more or become a member over the phone. You can also visit our website www.humboldtreduwoods.org/become-member to use a card. Or attach this section and mail along with a check to the address above. **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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