



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

Vice President's Report: Alan Aitken

Welcome to summer. The Visitor Center is open and visitors have arrived. Sunday, June 19th was a record day for people from across the country and around the world coming through our door at Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

Our most dedicated volunteer, June Patton, with more than 19,000 hours serving HRIA for over 30 years, has entered retirement at the age of 96. She has transitioned to an assisted care facility where by all accounts she is having a great time. Everyone at HRIA will miss her. Thank you, June, seems so inadequate.

At the May board meeting HRIA decided to enter into an agreement with the Discover Nature Co. to create an application that our visitors can download to receive trail maps, information on the park, an interactive children's challenge, and once downloaded will be able to tell you your location within the park using our phones GPS function.

Life member of HRIA, Jarl DeBoer, will be donating his postcard collection of the Redwood Highway to the HRIA library. Jarl has been collecting postcards for over 45 years and there are over 1,600 postcards in this collection. There will be a reception and presentation of the collection on Saturday, July 15th at 2pm at the Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor Center.

Hoping your summer is relaxing. The Visitor Centers will be very busy. Time to relax will come in the fall.

Alan Aitken



Photo by Allan Weigman

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Debbie Gardner

HRIA Executive Director

Sophia Eckert

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.

ONGOING EVENTS!



**Join Usal Beach Friends
for trail work events
mid August, September, and early
October**

**Please visit
www.humboldtredwoods.org
for details to come**

**If you are visiting Usal Beach at
Sinkyone Wilderness State Park
and/or are interested in attending a
beach clean up or interpretive walk,
please contact
usalbeachfriends@gmail.com**

Managers Report

By Debbie Gardner, HRIA Manager

Happy day to all, the rain has stopped and now the sun is shining and the visitors are here. The Visitor Center has been getting busier and busier, but thanks to our wonderful volunteers, everything is running smoothly. We also appreciate all the hard work from our winter volunteers. The days were slower but we couldn't do it without relying on your presence and patience.

As always, we are getting new merchandise in, so stop by and check it out. Also, a friendly reminder that memberships are due. We are so grateful for all of the support we receive from HRIA members like yourselves.

Have a great summer, and we hope to see you soon!

Richardson Grove Visitors Center

By Shanti Pockell, Park Interpreter

Walking into the recently reopened and remodeled Richardson Grove State Park Visitor Center, one is instantly taken back to what this park might have been like when it was first built. The beautiful wooden floors and walls, shingled roof, and wonderful informative posters, photographs, and interpretive displays remind us of the architecture, history, and style of when the building was originally constructed in 1931 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Back then, the Center was a focal destination point for any traveler on their way to explore the redwoods. The Visitors Center had all one needed, from camping supplies, to a gift shop, to a restaurant serving hamburgers and ice cream!

While the entirety of the Center is not yet finished, and film theatre are being put in place. For now, they is a multitude of entertainment for visitors including animal pelt touch tables, historical picture books, informative displays, and plenty of merchandise. Furthermore, the Visitors Center is now the hotspot to find out and participate in the Richardson Grove State Park's interpretive programs which include nature walks, Junior Ranger Programs, and campfires.

The remodeled Visitor's Center is a spectacular addition to the already beautiful park. We are all looking forward to an excellent summer here at Richardson Grove State Park, and hope to have many visitors to enjoy it with!



Photo by Allan Weigman

Mounted Assistance Unit: Meet a Member

By Cindy Giacomini, MAU Member

Spring has sprung and now summer is here! The park is alive with new blooms and is ready for visitors. The Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU), has two camp-out work weekends per year. The spring camp-out is held right after the park opens for the season. This work weekend was focused on getting Cuneo Creek Campground and trails ready for horse enthusiasts to enjoy! It was also the time that prospective members start the process of becoming a MAU volunteer. The process requires, testing in the Spring and Fall & riding 12 hours in the park with an MAU sponsor to learn the trails, policies & procedures. Introducing the rider & their equine to the park, insure that they will be safe and effective representatives of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. The prospective volunteer is also required to do a final test at the fall camp-out to complete their apprenticeship.



Mounted Assistance Unit members assembling to begin work day.



Mounted Assistance Unit member Cathy Mathena clearing fallen branches.

The projects that the MAU completed during the spring work party weekend were:

- Getting the rolling pit raked out and all the weeds pulled
- Working on a crossing at the bottom of Baxter trail
- Cleaning water troughs
- Painting the beam that was replaced in the bathroom last year
- Replacing a toilet in the bathroom
- Weed whacking around the fire pits
- Cleaning and organizing the tool shed
- Two prospective members were tested and will be starting their apprenticeship
- One new member finished up his apprenticeship and passed his final test

We hope that everyone has an opportunity to enjoy the park this season. See you on the trail!

or whole with other organization such as SRL can be complicated. Madeline would not deal with Headquarters or SRL, only with me. So it was I received a quick lesson from the Acquisition Section and brokered the deal with the stipulation that no mention of SRL would be in the transaction even though much of the funding would be provided by them.

Well everything went well up to a point after the sale. Madeline had insisted that she get two separate checks, one from a bank in Loleta and the other from the Bank of America in Fortuna. When she received the checks she called me asking me to take her to the banks. We went to Lotela first and deposited that check. Next we went to Fortuna. There was a long line at the teller's windows and Madeline didn't want to wait and just leave. I asked her to give me the check and I walked over to a customer service representative and said Madeline Holmes wanted to deposit a check. She point to the lines and I then held the check in front of her. She immediately called the bank president over and the check was immediately deposited – money talks!

Madeline was very happy with the sale that gave her a Life Estate to remain living on the property until she passed away. While I basked in the glory of accomplishing what State Park Director Mott and SRL Executive Secretary John DeWitt of SRL had been unable to do I received a call from an irate Madeline Holmes several months later. Her tax accountant when preparing her taxes asked her about the two checks that had been issued to her from SRL. Just the thought of mention of SRL set her off. To make a long story short I was able to get the two original checks handed over to me so that new checks could be re-issued showing the State of California on them instead of SRL. The new checks were mailed to me so that I could hand deliver them to Madeline and she was once again a satisfied customer. Just goes to show you what a little dried fruit, potatoes and perseverance can do in re-establishing a good neighbor policy.

(You can read the full story in my Pathways Through Parks book, pages 212-217)

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Avenue of the Giants Marathon

October 15th
<http://www.redwoodsmarathon.org/>

Smokey Bear's 73rd Birthday Bash



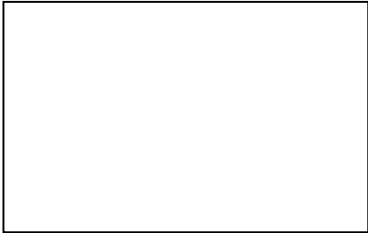
Please join us at the
Humboldt Redwoods
State Park Visitor
Center for cake and fun!

Saturday, August 5
Time to be announced
Please call 707-845-6168 for questions



Return Service Requested

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



Spring 2017

**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	Mail Check to: HRIA PO Box 276 Weott, CA 95571
Individual	\$25	Endowment	\$1,000	
Supporting	\$50	Redwood Crown	\$2,500	
Sponsoring	\$100	Donation	\$_____	
Life	\$250			

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Email _____ Phone # _____