



NEWSLETTER

Winter 2014

Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

President's Report Signs of Spring



Growing up in Weott, spring was always an exciting time of the year; the days grew longer and weather and schedules, permitting, my sister, my mother and I would hike in the surrounding redwoods looking for wildflowers. One of the earliest flowers to bloom, in late January or early February was the Fetid Adder's tongue, a much more reliable sign that spring was truly on its way for the redwood forest than the weather forecasting Groundhog in Pennsylvania. Even in this dry year, which brings back memories of the drought in the late 70s, the Fetid Adder's Tongue is blooming, reminding us that spring is not far off, bringing with it even more wildflowers to enjoy. The Visitor Centers at Grizzly Creek and Humboldt Redwoods are stocked with wildflower identification books as well as ideas on where to look for the elusive wildflowers of the redwood forest.

Winter is often a time of storms and disasters for the redwoods, and while not as dramatic as a flood

or windstorm, this year's continuing drought will undoubtedly leave its mark on the forest. Our new eon log at the Visitors Center on one side features historic events during the life time of the tree, while on the other side it will soon document the disasters that affected the tree during its lifetime. Droughts as well as fires, floods, and years of extra moisture all are recorded in the rings of the redwoods.

If you have questions about these events or are curious to learn more about the redwoods, stop by the Visitor Center and talk to our knowledgeable staff and volunteers. HRIA benefits greatly from their wisdom, and their willingness to share with the traveling public about the redwoods. See you soon in the Redwoods!

Please note many photos in this issue are from our Photo Contest in 2013.



Susan O'Hara, HRIA President

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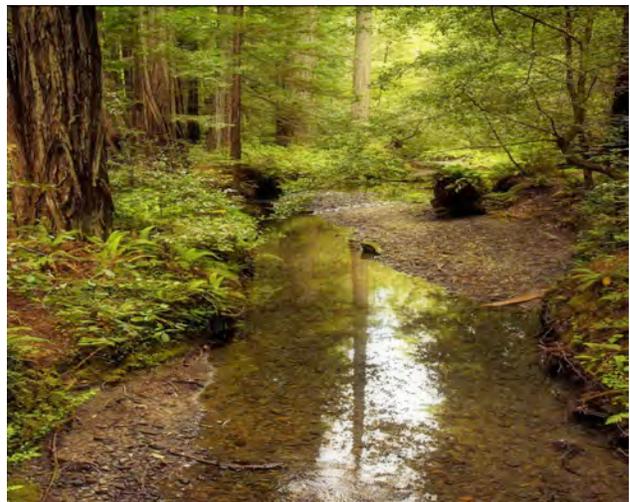
Mission Statement

The HRIA is an educational non-profit group working in cooperation with the California State Parks at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Humboldt County, California. The mission of HRIA is to provide visitors with stimulating explanatory information on the natural and cultural history of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. To help visitors see Humboldt Redwoods 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.

Favorite Places in Humboldt Redwoods, Grizzly Creek and Richardson's Grove State Parks

In talking to visitors and park staff alike there is one commonality: everyone has their favorite place to hike, to sit and contemplate, enjoy nature, photograph, or even paint. Some of my favorite memories of Humboldt Redwoods State Park include hiking with my mother, finding places for her to paint. One of my favorite paintings that she did was of the old barn at Luke Prairie. Other times she and I would be hunting for wildflowers to photograph. I fell in love with my husband while hiking the trails of Humboldt Redwoods, so I have many special places in the park. For me, there is no place like Rockefeller Forest, especially the lower Bull Creek Flats trail in Humboldt Redwoods. It never fails to inspire me, and to make me appreciate the splendor of the redwoods. When I was homesick at college, thinking of Bull Creek Flats, and hiking the trails when I got home always comforted me. At Grizzly Creek it is walking at Cheatham Grove, and to explore amongst the oxalis and the ferns along the trail. At Richardson's Grove, it is the beach, splashing with family and friends.

I would like to offer the opportunity for all of our members to share about their favorite places in the park. If you have a favorite place to visit and enjoy, please email the Visitor's Center at vc@humboldtreedwoods.org, and we will share your favorite place, and why, in the newsletter.

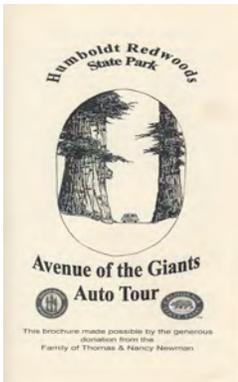


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Help us go green by sending us your email address, so that we can send you this newsletter electronically. By sending the newsletter electronically we are able to save on paper, printing, and mailing costs as well, money that we can then utilize on improving our interpretation efforts. The other advantage is that the email version is in color. Of course, if you prefer, we will still mail you the newsletter. If you do wish to get your newsletter electronically please send your email address to vc@humboldtreddwoods.org. Thank you for helping us go green!



New Auto Tour Brochure

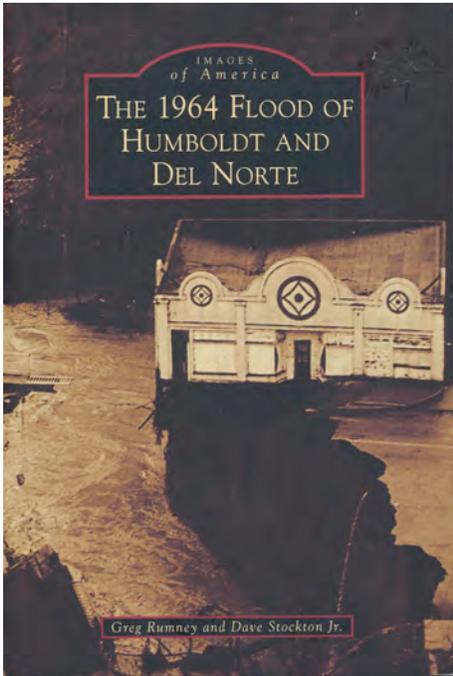


This past fall and winter the staff at the Visitors Center has been working to recreate the Auto Tour pamphlet, first made by Ranger Ron Jones in the late 1980s. The new pamphlet, while smaller than the original, contains much of the same information and helps tourists to find the various stops along the Avenue of the Giants. Besides information about the park and the redwoods the pamphlet also has a map of the Avenue. The printing of the pamphlet was made possible by a generous donation from the family of Thomas and Nancy Newman. The new brochure will be available at all three Visitor Centers as well as at both ends of the Avenue.

Richardson Grove Lodge Restoration continues:

Last summer work began on remodeling the lodge at Richardson Grove state park. A lodge has been at Richardson Grove since 1920, actually predating the park. E. R. Freeman built a store, dining room and cabins were built on the property leased from Henry Devoy. Two years later the land was purchased by the Save the Redwoods League, becoming part of the nascent state park system in 1928. Freeman continued to operate the lodge along with a campground as a concessionaire during the 1920s and 30s. During the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps did extensive work throughout Richardson Grove building trails, improving campsites, constructing comfort stations and other work. One project was rebuilding the store and dining room that had been dismantled in the early 1930s. They built a general store, lobby, and kitchen. This lodge became a popular stopping point for travelers on Highway 101 in the 1940s. In the early 1990s the lodge was repurposed into the Visitor Center for the park. The newly remodeled lodge and visitor center is hoped to be open to the public by this summer.





New Book Release:

The 1964 Flood in Humboldt and Del Norte County

Former HRIA Executive Director and current board member, David Stockton and *Old Photo Guy* Greg Rumney have collaborated on a new book documenting the 1964 flood. The book highlights the damage done by the flood and how the devastation of the flood affected the region. Photographs are included from the Depot Museum Collection, Greg Rumney's Collection and HRIA. The book covers the flood pictorially from the north to south, featuring the local communities so devastated by the epic flood. Highlights include pictures of the flooding in Del Norte County and along the Eel. Memorable pictures of children's toys laying in mud after the Christmas flood mix with images of water, water, water everywhere. Published by Arcadia press, as part of their images of America series, the book is available at the Visitor Center. Get your copy soon to learn about this calamitous event in

Northern California. The 50th Anniversary of the Flood will occur in December.

Visitor Center Update **The Year in Review!**

David Pritchard, Executive Director

What a great year, except for the fact we didn't have much rain. Oh and do we need rain; we are currently 40% of normal for this time of the year, and though not as dire as in other parts of California, the drought is affecting the redwoods. The plus side is the pleasant weather in January is bringing people to the park and enjoying a sunny day in the winter in the Redwoods.

On a positive note, this past year we saw over 95,000 visitors to Humboldt Redwoods State Park come through our visitor center. Our 29 volunteers have put in over 5,600 hours greeting our guests to the center and helping them out wherever possible. Additionally, our 4 docents logged in 564 hours and greeted 19,583 guests at Founders Grove and the Tall Tree area. These positive contacts are the heart of what makes our association thrive and how we fulfill our mission.

2013 also saw the merger with Richardson Grove Interpretive Association; Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association (HRIA) now oversees three visitor centers. We are working to streamline the ordering process to be able to fill all three centers with exciting materials about the redwoods. Ranger Emily Peterson is working on updating exhibits at Grizzly Creek's visitor Center and Richardson Grove's visitor center is being completely remodeled back to its original state of the 1920's when it was more of a lodge. At Humboldt Redwoods we are also thinking about new exhibits and better ways to meet the needs of our future visitors.

We are hoping that 2014 will be even better, with more rain and many more visitors from all over the world. Stop by sometime and see our map of the world and the pins it showing where our visitors have come from.



What's new with the MAU

Cathy Mathena, MAU Advisory Committee

The Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) met February 12th for their annual winter meeting. 2014 will bring some changes for the group. Ranger Emily Peterson, who started the unit in 2002, has stepped down as MAU staff advisor due to her transfer to Grizzly Creek State Park. Ranger Robert Leiterman is now the new staff advisor. This change has brought about the formation of an Advisory Committee comprised of 5 MAU members to oversee the unit. These members are, Pat Farmer, Maralyn Renner, Sandy McKay, Cathy Mathena and Dennis Sousa. Cathy Mathena is the head of the Advisory Committee & acts as the contact person for the MAU.

The MAU is made up of thirty volunteers & their horses. This year there are seven openings in the unit and prospective members will start their testing process at the annual Spring Campout in May. The MAU conducts maintenance at Cuneo Creek Horse Camp and on the trails, reports trail safety issues to the park ranger and patrols the trails on horseback providing assistance to hikers, bikers & other trail riders.



Three Redwood State Parks: A Brief History of Richardson's Grove, Humboldt Redwoods, and Grizzly Creek State Parks

Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association is now the Interpretive Association for Richardson's Grove, Humboldt Redwoods and Grizzly Creek State parks. The name Humboldt Redwoods can apply all three state parks, since when the groves along the Eel River began to be preserved by the Save the Redwoods League in the 1920s the name was given to those groves.

Humboldt Redwoods State Park includes the first groves preserved by the Save the Redwoods League, Bolling Grove. In fact, Humboldt Redwoods was host to the Founder's of the Save the Redwoods League, on their transformative and inspirational camping trip to the redwoods in 1917. John C. Merriam, Henry



Osborn, and Madison Grant were friends and colleagues from U.C. Berkeley who were shocked by the damage being done to the redwoods by road construction, logging and the split product

industry. Upon their return to San Francisco, they formed the league, and started collecting funds to start purchasing and preserving the redwoods they felt to be so overwhelming threatened.

By 1921 the League had raised enough money to purchase Bolling Grove, located south of Myers Flat, near Elk Creek Road. The grove was dedicated to Raynel C. Bolling, the first high-ranking officer killed in World War I, a tradition of naming groves in honor of dignitaries or those who donated money for the purchase of a grove that continues to this day. A large ceremony was held at the dedication, a tradition that continued throughout the 1920s and 1930s to such an extent that one park ranger's daughter began to think of the poem "Trees" as the national anthem. As the Save the Redwoods league was successful in adding more parklands, a headquarters was located at Williams Grove, named after one of California's governors who had been instrumental in the preservation movement. This first campground at Humboldt Redwoods featured a campfire center, campsites, and housing for the rangers and their families.

In 1922 Richardson's Grove was purchased and dedicated to California Governor, Friend



Richardson. In 1926 the California State Park system was created, to help administer the growing number of state lands, including those preserved in Humboldt County. Richardson's Grove quickly became a favorite camping spot and place to enjoy the redwoods. Entertainment at the nightly campfire programs in summer attracted visitors from around the region who came to sing and learn about the redwoods. Dances were also held at the park in the summer, increasing its popularity. Many remember pulling off the highway at the lodge to enjoy ice cream and cold drinks under the redwoods. Richardson's Grove has remained a popular camping destination for many families since its opening in the 1920s. This young visitor in the 1970s is not sure whether to go fishing or swimming in the nearby Eel.

Grizzly Creek was purchased in the late 1940s.

Grizzly Creek was named for the creek that runs

through the park, running into the Van Duzen by the day use area. The creek was named for the numerous Grizzlies found in the region in the late 1800s. Sadly, all of the Grizzly's in California were hunted to extinction in the early 20th century. The site of the park was also used as a stage stop in the late 1800s. After becoming preserved by the Save the Redwoods league, the State Park began making improvements. The campground was completed in 1947 and has become a popular spot for many to camp. The park is the youngest of the three, and, like the other three parks, it is still growing as more groves and lands are added to help preserve the redwoods growing along these tributaries of the Eel River. Most recently, a corridor along the Van Duzen was preserved between the campground and Cheatham Grove. Cheatham Grove was used as the scene for one of the Star War movies.

The constant for these three parks is the redwoods and preserving their grandeur. Each offers unique perspectives of the tall giants. Each park is worthy of further exploration; information about all three is available at the Visitors Centers located at each park.

Movies Starring the Redwoods!

Since the first movies were made in Hollywood, the redwoods have attracted moviemakers to Humboldt County to film the photogenic timber stars. One of the first films to feature redwoods was *The Valley of the Giants* in 1919. Filmed in and around Eureka and Scotia the silent film was remade in 1927, and in 1938. A fourth film, *The Big Trees* made in 1952 was filmed around Williams Grove in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Based on the book *The Valley of the Giants* by Peter Kyne local scenery were as important to the story line as the actors.

During the 1910s and 20s three other films were made locally, several of them featuring the Carson Mansion in Eureka. These silent films are *The Little Boss* and *Man's Desire* in 1919 and *Ruggles of Red Gap* in 1923. *The Timber War* filmed in 1935 is noted for showing the timber harvesting practices of the time. Several more smaller movies were also filmed in Humboldt during the 1940s and 50s. In 1967 *The Gnome Mobile* produced by Disney was filmed in Rockefeller Forest. The redwoods were the perfect setting for the gnome families. The Scotia Inn was also featured in the film.

Perhaps the best-known film made in Humboldt County was *Return of the Jedi* in 1983, as mentioned Cheatham Grove as well as Prairie Creek and Jedediah Smith State Parks are featured prominently in the movie. Dustin Hoffman's thriller *Outbreak* in 1995 features scenes along the Van Duzen by Cheatham Grove. Director Steven Spielberg also chose the redwoods for the scenes in his 1997 *The Lost World*. Most recently, in 2013 the redwoods were the scene for a futuristic earth in Will Smith's movie *After Earth*. In *After Earth* Bull Creek, the Eel River, and the groves in Rockefeller Forest create the illusion of an alien world.

Many documentaries have also been filmed in the redwoods, notably *Walking with Dinosaurs* the BBC's 1999 mini-series about dinosaurs, the redwoods having survived since the Jurassic period, they seem the perfect back drop as young Apatosaurus search for food amongst the ferns. Additionally, many car commercials have been filmed over the years with the redwoods as a backdrop. So, grab some popcorn, rent a movie, and enjoy your favorite trees this winter on the big screen, but make plans to come see them in person this spring and summer!





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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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