



Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

President's Report: Campfires in the Redwoods

Summer is always the busiest season for the State Parks that lie in Southern



Humboldt. Tourists and locals alike come to enjoy hiking and camping in the redwoods. Campfire Programs are an integral part of the summer camping experience. These fun-filled evening programs share insights about the park and are filled with songs, skits, jokes, and laughter. All three of the Southern Humboldt Redwood State Parks have a long history of presenting Campfire Programs.

The oldest, Humboldt Redwoods, started having evening programs in

the 1920s at William's Grove. These early programs included dancing as well as singing. At the beginning of the Great Depression, Ranger Jack Fleckenstein built a campfire center near present day Founder's Grove. In addition to getting campers to participate in the evening programs, he also called on the services of the young men located at the nearby CCC Camp. According to Florence Winje, daughter of one of the first rangers at Williams Grove, one corps member, Mr. Crabtree, was a great tap dancer. Winje notes that many people came to "sit on the long benches and join in the singing and fun." Soon, other rangers in the area had their own campfire sites for local residents and travelers alike to come and participate in the singing.



Williams Grove even hosted horseshoe tournaments as part of the evening fun.

Richardson's Grove was another hot spot for evening entertainment. There, redwood benches served the needs of visitors as they listened to lectures hosted by the rangers about the region. During the war years, Richardson Grove boasted of hosting "Lecture, Entertainment, Bonfire." In 1943 campfires were held nightly in the summer, with a capacity for nearly 500. In the late 1940s dancing was added to the evening repertoire of activities and many frequented the dance floor located to the north of the store. By the time Grizzly Creek State Park became operational in the late 1940s, campfires were a must for any park. Ranger Emily Peterson discovered that CHP officers presented some of these early campfire programs.

Technology has also impacted the traditional campfire program. From the late 1940s to the early 1990s campfire programs depended on slide shows prepared by the park staff. Today, PowerPoint presentations are utilized, but the messages remain the same from the early days; the importance of preserving the redwoods, the wildlife and flora of the redwoods, local history, and information about fires and floods. So, when you hear the word "Campfire" yelled towards your campsite, come and enjoy the singing, laughter and information about the region that connects our present to the past.

Another popular destination for travelers is the Visitors Center. An interpretive center has been a prominent feature for our parks dating to the 1920s when a center opened at Dyerville. This summer has seen increased visitation to all of our Centers. Our wonderful volunteers made each visitor feel welcomed and shared with him or her about the park. Our Volunteers are who make the visitors want to return and to see the center, (Continued on page 2)

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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.

President's Report, Continued from p. 1

even if they have seen it before. I would like to again thank Don & Corke Ferrier, Leon & Ollie Abbott, Patty Costello, Bob & Lynn Freelove, Jim Fithian, Joel & Rosemary Kinny, Nancy Mialovich, J.D. & Heather McClary, Cheryl Stone, June Patton, Virginia Gruziani, Bruce Riley, Michele Spoto, Robert & Susan Tierney, Wayne & Judy Hale, Virgil & Sharon George, Gary & Kathy Hawley, Dick & Shirley Sacco, Harry Sharp, Laurel Franklin, Joann Fairbanks. Elyse Franklin; At Richardson Grove: Mary Hoffman, David & Diane Carlson, Randy & Susan Keller. At my school's recent Eighth Grade Graduation one speaker urged the students to seek "service above self." I am happy to say I know of so many who are willing to give of themselves so that others can better enjoy their experiences in the redwoods.

Susan O'Hara, HRIA President

2014 Photo Contest

Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association is sponsoring a Photo Contest. Submissions of images of photographer's favorite scenes of Humboldt Redwoods, Grizzly Creek Redwoods, Richardson Grove and Sinkyone Wilderness State Parks must be received by September 30. Each park's winning entry will receive a \$50 gift Certificate to be used in any of the Visitors Centers operated by HRIA. A Grand Prize winner will receive 2 nights free camping at the park of their choice. Photos may be submitted digitally to the Visitors Center at Burlington at vc@humboltdredwoods.org or digital submissions via flash drives or cds may be mailed to HRIA, P.O. Box 276, Weott, CA 95571. Submitted photographs become the property of HRIA.



The 2013 winner was Ginny Dexter with this image of the South Fork in the fall.

New At the Center:

Debbie Gardner, Manager and David Pritchard, Director

This summer we have been very busy, thank you to all the volunteers who make our center so wonderful! We have several new items for sale that are very popular. For example, we now have Christmas decorations. If you haven't gotten yours yet, come on down and get one, or call and we can mail one to you. The price of the ornaments are \$8.95 + tax= \$9.62. Our ornament selection includes a Redwood Tree, Chipmunk, River Otter, Deer, or a Hummingbird & Flower. If you would like to order one, please call (707) 946-2263. We are adding new books all the time, one favorite is called Moonlight animals, as you read the book there is a flashlight beam that reveals all the night time creatures as you move it around. Another new kids book is a 3-d bug book, which has a pop out section showing various bug ecosystems.



all for supporting the Visitors Center.

Summer would not be complete without celebrating June Patton's birthday, who turned 94 years young on July 19th. We had a beautiful cake for June, and of course Smoky the Bear showed up, June's favorite forest animal. Miss June was very surprised. June comes every day to volunteer to help price and keep us all in check. June is our oldest and most respected volunteer who holds over 15,500 hours of volunteering for HRIA and has been volunteering here for almost 30 years. Smokey's 70th Birthday party was held on August 9th at the Burlington Campground campfire area next to the visitor center where birthday cake was served to all that came to help celebrate. Thank you

The 150th Anniversary Event Yosemite National Park

Ranger Emily Peterson

"150 years ago today, on June 30th, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed an act authorizing a grant to the State of California of the Yosemite Valley, and of the land embracing the Mariposa Big Tree Grove. This legislation protected Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Grove of Giant Sequoias for public use, resort and recreation. Under this law, scenic natural areas were set aside and protected for the benefit of future generations for the first time in the history of our nation." Excerpt from "Yosemite Grant Sesquicentennial" brochure, June 30th, 2014.

Why are we talking about Yosemite National Park in an H.R.I.A. newsletter? Because Yosemite was operated by the State of California for over 40 years before becoming federal land and is considered to be California's first State Park (check out our patch!). As such, 2014 marks the 150th anniversary for both California State Parks and Yosemite National Park. In an effort to jointly celebrate this momentous occasion, four State Park Rangers were asked to be part of the mounted color guard and I was honored to be one of them. When Sector Superintendent Tom Gunther read an e-mail in early May regarding the 150th celebration in Yosemite and the need for equestrian oriented State Park Rangers to be a part of it, he immediately e-mailed a reply volunteering my services. He then called and asked if I'd be interested. Of course I said yes and his response was, "Good, because I already volunteered you!" He knows how much I love horses and that I would never have passed up such a wonderful opportunity.



So, I marked my calendar and started making plans and before I knew it, the big day had arrived. Initially planning on bringing my horse Sammy to ride in the event, one of the other rangers (who only

lived an hour from Yosemite) offered one of his, “Gus,” making the nine-hour drive much easier. It was a really good thing Sammy stayed home because the weather forecast was in the triple digits. I think the heat may have literally killed him!

The morning of the ceremony I woke up at 3 am to get ready. Instructed to be at the Mariposa Grove, dressed and ready for pictures at 7 am, fellow Ranger Nate Smith and I were slated for the Mariposa event. The other State Park Rangers went to the Valley event scheduled for later in the day. As it turns out, Nate and I were the lucky ones; the temperature in the grove only got into the low 90’s, but in the Valley it was over 100 degrees. Keep in mind, we were all wearing our (wool) class A uniforms. We looked great, but we were really uncomfortable! Many photos were snapped of the State Park and National Park color guards as we made our way around the grove, greeting people, shaking hands, smiling for the cameras and secretly hoping our horses didn’t sneeze on anyone important. At 9:55am we were given our flags lining up for the grand entry. It was all very exciting! Gus and I proudly carried the California State flag. For the next hour and a half we struggled and did the best we could to keep our horses quiet and still while we were lined up alongside the stage, as a parade of dignitaries and politicians took the stage to talk about the importance of the day. The horses, as it turns out, were much quieter than the politicians.



It was a beautiful setting, a momentous occasion and an experience I’ll never forget. Thank you to Sector Superintendent Tom Gunther for volunteering me for this event and to my Supervisors Thomas Valterria and Tyson Young for allowing me to go. It was an honor to represent California State Parks. And on a horse no less! It just doesn’t get any better.



Rock Formations Develop into Figures at the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park

Carla Thomas, Volunteer SWSP

If you are looking for a new park to explore, you may want to come by the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park this late summer and early fall and check out the “new” statues on the beach. One is a thin rock spike, just south of the trail that winds down to the beach from the campsites. Referred to as “little needle rock” by some, since it is tall, thin and pointy, yet smaller than the main Needle Rock to the south. However, now some are calling it the “Lady of the Sinkyone” because wave action has carved it into a profile of a woman with her hair piled high on top of her head (above - Lady of the Sinkyone). The Lady is best viewed from the north on the beach as you come around the high tide “no pass” spot just to the south of the slot where

the trail meets the beach from the campsites. Just a bit further south, is a large cabin sized boulder that rolled of the cliff and onto the beach resembling a crouching or reclining Lioness (above) The boulder is closer to the cliffs than the Lady, but stands separate from the cliff. In Figure 1 it is just behind her left shoulder. In May I could see the back haunches of the Lioness, but in July sand had covered it up to the shoulders and it was mostly the head and shoulders reclining that you can see from the north (below – the Lioness). CAUTION: the black sands of Jones Beach are under



water except at low tide and waves can wash over the whole beach if the surf is high, even if the tide is low. It is important to time your visit on a day with low surf and low tides during your visit or you could

risk being washed off the beach. Check on tide and surf conditions before your trip. The camp hosts post this information at the Needle Rock Visitor Center where you can see it when you register. Fall is a generally a good time to visit the beach when skies are clearer and winds are calmer and before winter storms bring the surf up. The two figures have changed quite a bit this year, so may look quite different by next year. I hope you get a chance to visit the Lady and the Lioness of the Sinkyone.

Eel River Native Basket Weaving

Sophia Eckert, Seasonal Interpreter, Humboldt Redwoods State Park



Offering interesting learning opportunities for visitors of all ages to Humboldt Redwoods State Park is always a priority in the busy summer months. This year, the Eel River Native Basket Weavers are pulling out the creativity in all of us and teaching us how to weave it right into a basket! Their first program held in July was a great success, and there are baskets to prove it. The event, led by local resident Traci Speelman, pictured with Kayla Christian, attracted kids, parents, passersby, volunteers, and everyone in between. Through two hours of dedication and perseverance, participants created small (2-4 inch diameter) hand-woven baskets, done in a Cherokee style with cane and love. The baskets were started with a base and technique similar to Wiyot style baskets that have been woven in this area for hundreds of years. Some parents helped younger children create their baskets, while other children wove as if they had been doing it all of their lives. Some enthusiastic kids even went home with extra supplies to fulfill their newly found basket weaving passions. Many children had big plans of using their creation to pick blackberries. The more mature participants, who regularly collect more than seven blackberries at a time, had ambitions of using their baskets for jewelry or loose nails. As we learned about the history of basket weaving, we shared the experience of making our first creation together, under the warm sun surrounded by redwoods. There will be two more weaving events in August, allowing visitors to learn from one another and create something unique, as so many have done before us.

Betty's Redwood Adventure!

Laurel Franklin, Seasonal Interpreter, Humboldt Redwoods State Park

What if you couldn't move your body? What if you had a condition that developed when you were very young where your mind was exactly how it is now, but your muscles would not respond to your wishes? It's hard to imagine the inner strength that would be required to live a life like this. It would almost seem impossible to take a journey across the country to hike the trails of the tallest trees in the world at Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Almost...

On June 21st, 2014, I had the privilege of meeting a woman who did just that. Her name is Betty Thompson and she suffers from Spastic Athetoid Cerebral Palsy (she light-heartedly calls it "Double Whammy C.P") Cerebral Palsy is a condition where almost all body movement is severely limited due to muscle tightness and spasms. Betty, age 67, is one of the most inspiring people I have ever encountered. I met up with Betty, and a small group of her friends (Trina, Lynn, Dee Ann, Elise) and caretakers (Dee and Jackie) when they arrived at Humboldt Redwoods State Park Visitor's Center on a glorious Saturday afternoon. Flying from Decatur, Georgia to Los Angeles they had driven up the California coast to their final destination: Humboldt Redwoods State Park. As the van door opened, a woman greeted me warmly with a twinkle in her eye and the happiest smile I have ever seen! Her dream had come true.



Growing up, Betty was very close with her father, Raymond. In 1939, as an 18 year old, Raymond worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at Burlington, later telling Betty stories of the immense beauty and grandeur of the coastal redwood forests that he lived and worked in. Her father passed two years ago at age 93, and so when her church mission group asked Betty if she had some dream that they could help her attain, without hesitation, Betty said, “Go to the redwoods.” Soon the group and Betty were working to make this dream a reality. Betty made beautiful greeting cards to sell to fund the trip and started a blog promoting awareness of her goal. Her church mission group helped with fundraising and planning the journey. After months of hard work and many generous donations Betty was finally ready to discover the redwoods. Made aware of her dream, The Save the Redwoods League contacted Supervising Ranger Tyson Young who in turn asked me to introduce Betty to the park. Excited to meet Betty after reading her story, I gathered pictures of the CCC men, the trails and buildings they built, and other historical information to help familiarize Betty with her father’s work in the forest.

When we met, we hugged and I gave her the pictures as well as a Humboldt Redwoods State Park T-shirt, hat, and water bottle donated by HRIA. Thrilled to be here, she literally radiated joy! We soon headed into the forest to explore. We entered silently, and Betty’s face opened in awe. Moments later, her motorized wheelchair lost its charge! We didn’t let this stop us. Betty’s friend Trina and I took turns pushing the 100-lb. chair, determined to hike the 0.6-mile Gould Nature trail. We gawked in amazement as I shared about the ecological and historical wonders of the almost immortal forest. When we were deep in the grove, a moment of silence swept over us as a breeze softly blew through. Betty had tears of joy in her eyes. She spelled out “Dad is here.” He was. We all felt it.



Two hours later we emerged, changed, inspired. Betty and her friends continued on their journey with plans to visit Founder’s Grove the next day. On their last day, although I was giving a guided hike elsewhere, when I received a text message from Trina saying Betty wanted to say goodbye, I raced back to the Visitor’s Center, just barely catching them. Betty smiled her amazing smile and spelled out to me “you were the highlight of my trip.” She was without a doubt the highlight of my summer interpretive experience, too. We had a connection. We hugged one last time and promised to keep in touch.

Betty had two main reasons for wanting to come to our park. One: for her father--to experience the life changing beauty that he had. She did it. Two: Betty wanted to inspire others to follow their hearts, to dream big, and to never accept supposed “limitations”. She wanted to let others know that having a disability does not mean that one cannot do great things. She is living proof. Betty’s Redwood Adventure deeply stirred many, including me, and will continue to do so. In fact, Betty’s strength and her ability to surpass limitations can easily be compared to the endurance, the tenacity, and the utter

inspiration of the coastal redwood forests. (You can find more about her adventure on Facebook at “Betty’s Journey to the Redwoods-June 18-25.”)



Nature is a Natural Healer

Julia Allshouse, Seasonal Interpretive Specialist, Richardsons Grove

Walking outside, you take a deep breath of fresh air. You wish you could just stay outside all day but unfortunately you’re on your way to work. Most Americans spend the majority of their days indoors, rarely taking a moment to enjoy the nature around them. The average American spends less than 30 minutes outdoors every day. That’s why this summer at Richardson Grove State Park there is a new program revealing to visitors the benefits of being outdoors. We all know that exercise keeps us healthy, but just being outdoors

can be just as important.

Visitors are first asked to think about how much time they spend outside every day. For some, this is something they've never really thought about. Many scholars are researching and experimenting with the effects of spending more time outside. Some of their results are shocking. Richard Louv has written two books that cover some of these findings. *Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle* examines the issues stemming from lack of time spent in nature. Louv finds that being in nature boosts mental acuity, especially for those struggling with Attention Deficit Disorder. Time outdoors can also build creativity. Other studies have found that merely having a view of nature while healing in the hospital can help patients recover faster. The discoveries of these benefits are just beginning to be revealed, but it seems evident that being outside can really help you stay healthy.

As interpreters, we are lucky to be able to spend most of our day outdoors. Many park visitors are leaving a large city to spend some time in nature, which is great, but it's our job to inspire them to find other ways they can be in nature if only for a few more moments. The average person may not be able to go to a State Park everyday but I hope to encourage them to eat outside for dinner or walk their children to school in the morning. At the end of the program, I challenge visitors to spend 23 hours of their day indoors and see how much better they feel if they give up one hour a day to spend outdoors. We all live on a planet rich in natural wonders, it's time our visitors realized they can be found right outside their front door.

Work Cited: Louv, Richard. *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-deficit Disorder*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin of Chapel Hill, 2005. Print; Louv, Richard. *The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-deficit Disorder*. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin of Chapel Hill, 2011. Print; Ulrich, R. "View through a Window May Influence Recovery from Surgery." *Science* 224.4647 (1984): 420-21. Web.

Working at Grizzly Creek

Ryan Knight, Park Aide, Grizzly Creek



"I shall not soon forget the scene that was here presented to me," wrote L.K. Wood in *Lure of*

Humboldt Bay Region. "There stood Van Duzen reloading his rifle; nearby lay three grizzly bears, two dead and the third with his back broken. Two others stood nearby grinning and snarling in a most unamiable manner...." Although this action took place southwest of Grizzly Creek, the eponymous Van Duzen flows by the campground, creating thoughts of pioneer days.

My arrival at Grizzly Creek Redwoods State Park on the Van Duzen River was slightly less eventful. For the first month of my work as a Park Aide I sat quietly in the kiosk, twiddling my thumbs, researching activities and information for campfire and nature materials, and getting to know the other park staff. I was assured that the summer would be

busy, but foolishly I assumed that such allegations were exaggerated. Memorial Day weekend arrived and since then, the summer has blown past: A blur of Junior Ranger programs, campers, animal sightings, and state-mandated accountability documents which left no time for additional thumb twiddling.

This summer, I have gained a new appreciation for the redwood forest. It was not until I left the area for college and Peace Corps Service that I realized how much I missed the beauty of the redwood forest and the sight of the Pacific Ocean. Now that I have arrived back on the North Coast, I have found a palpable joy explaining the beauty of my home to people from around the world.

Spending five days a week watching the light flow through the ancient redwood trees outside of our kiosk, watching the profound excitement and curiosity of Junior Rangers exploring the edge of Grizzly Creek, and seeing the Gray Fox running through the campground has made this a remarkable summer.

James Van Duzen, having survived his encounter with five grizzly bears, went on to establish a farm on land at the mouth of what is today known as the Van Duzen River. My discovery of Grizzly Creek State Park has not led me to any life or death struggles with the local wildlife, but it has deepened my roots behind the redwood curtain.



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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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