



Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association

President's Report: The Many Seasons of Humboldt Redwoods



Board Member Cheryl Stone and her husband enjoy hiking at Humboldt Redwoods, and have shared some of their pictures for our newsletter. They are striking images that remind me that our parks are year round parks, and that each season has something special to offer those willing to brave the elements.

Fall brought many strong storms this year, as has winter, and there have been several times that the rivers and streams in the park have risen quickly with run off, and then as quickly,

decreased again, as thankfully most of the water was absorbed back into the various watersheds. Due to these storms, the drought while still on going, is not as severe at this time in Humboldt County as it is in other parts of California. The storms have also brought trees down, and changed some of the trails in the park, making it interesting to see what has changed in the woods.

Spring is on its way, as the many sun



filled days indicate, and the various wildflower gems of the redwoods are springing forth adding their beauty to the forest floor. Trilliums, yellow violets, lady slippers and fairy bells are all to be found as one hikes around the trails in the park.

Summer will soon be here with warm days that make swimming in the river or hiking in the cooler forests something to look forward to. Whichever season you enjoy the most, the rest are sure to please as well. If you have any

questions about trails, wildflowers, or what to see and do, please stop by and ask at our Visitor Center by Burlington Campground, the one at Grizzly Creek, or at the Needle Rock Visitor Center in the Sinkyone. The Visitor Center at Richardson Grove will be re-opening this summer with new exhibits. Of course, if you are interested in Volunteering in any of our parks, please contact David Pritchard, Executive Director, at 946-2263 or vc@humboldtreedwoods.org.

Susan O'Hara; HRIA President

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Mission Statement

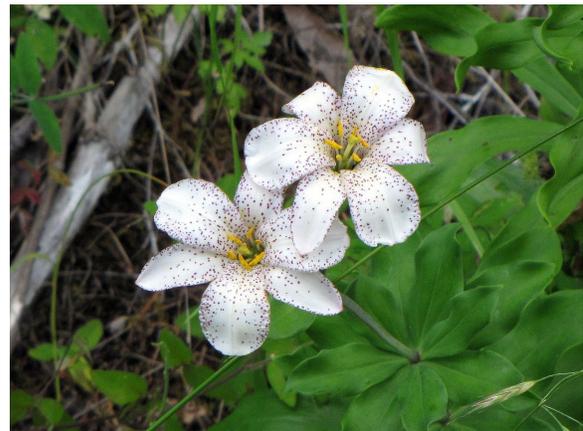
The Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association is an educational non-profit group working in cooperation with the California State Parks at Humboldt Redwoods State Park, Richardson Grove State Park, Grizzle Creek Redwoods State Park, Benbow Lake State Recreation Area and the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. 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.

Help us be even more Green!

Please help HRIA be more eco-friendly! We are trying to distribute our newsletter more by email than having a regular printed newsletter. By emailing we save on the cost of printing, the expense of paper, and of course, postage. The newsletter costs the association \$1200 annually to produce, and the savings from emailing the letter allows more money to be used for the benefit of the parks.

Additionally, the environmental impact of production and delivery is also much less if the newsletter is delivered to you digitally. Finally, there is no disposal issues with more material ending up in a landfill. Moreover, the email version is of course in color, which brightens all the pictures, and of course, you get your newsletter sooner. If you would like to receive the newsletter digitally, please contact David or Debbie at the Visitor Center at vc@humboldtredwoods.org or call them at 946-2347.



Redwood Lily, 2014 Photo Contest

Eventful Winter, the Mighty Eel:

By David Pritchard, HRIA Executive Director



After our most recent storm the Eel River rose very quickly as can be seen in the two pictures taken 24 hours apart in the exact same location in Myers Flat where the river makes a sweeping turn. The river turned to a chocolate brown color. In a little over 48 hours it had rained 10.17 inches. The river rises quite quickly but takes time to go back down. Watching the river gives me a better understanding of how the river flooded in 1964. As of today (2.10.15) it has rained so far this season 43.23. Last year was a very dry year for the

park and the rest of California. The park got only 28.46 inches last season which run from July 1 to June 31. A far cry for the 2005 – 2006 season when we got 101.38. Let's hope that Mother Nature will give us more rain before the season over.

The Eel River is a major river, about 196 miles (315 km) long. The river and its



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tributaries form the third largest watershed entirely in California, draining a rugged area of 3,684 square miles (9,540 km²) in five counties. The river flows generally northward through the Coast Ranges west of the Sacramento Valley, emptying into the Pacific Ocean about 10 miles (16 km) downstream from Fortuna and just south of Humboldt Bay. The river provides groundwater recharge, recreation, and industrial, agricultural and municipal water supply.

The Eel River system is among the most dynamic in California because of the region's unstable geology and the influence of major Pacific storms. The discharge is highly variable; average flows in January and February are over 100 times greater than in August and September. The river also carries the highest suspended sediment load of any river of its size in the United States, in part due to the frequent landslides in the region. The suspended sediment also gives the river its greenish cast in the summer as light is reflected off of the sediment.

New Carpet at Visitor's Center



Our Visitor Center at Burlington sees almost 250,000 visitors annually, or 500,000 feet yearly! The carpet in the center was replaced this January after having had more than 2 million foot prints implanted on the old one! The new carpet is said to be able to stand up to high traffic areas, and comes in a tile format so that if a square is stained, a new one can easily replace it. The Center only had to be closed

for two days as the tiles were laid, and exhibits were shifted from area to area. The new carpet seems to brighten the center, especially on rainy days! At the same time that the Burlington center received new carpet, the center at Grizzly Creek was refreshed with new linoleum. Come check out our new looks!



Hiking Surprises

by Cheryl Stone, HRIA Board Member

Any time you go hiking in the woods, you are likely to come upon interesting sites and occasionally some strange anomalies. One of these is found on the Drury Chaney Trail, it is a large redwood that has had a large section of its bark removed. A nearby sign explains that the bark was peeled by J. H. French and his sons, including Enoch "Percy" French, who became the first Superintendent of the Redwood State Parks from 1931 to 1953.



The tree had been owned by The Pacific Lumber Company when it was peeled in 1901. The bark was taken to San Francisco where it was used to recreate a large redwood tree for an exhibit and booth for the Epworth League. The marks in the tree are from where staging or springboards were cut into the tree for the French family to stand on as they removed the bark. The tree survived having part of its bark removed, and as you look at the edges of the bark you can see how in the past 100 years it has worked to heal itself and grow back over the wound caused by removing its bark.

Boy Scout Troup #13 Teams Up with California State Parks and HRIA to Build Four Trail Bridges

Sinkyone Wilderness State Park Bridge Building Week Planned for April 7-12

By Carla Thomas, Sinkyone liaison and HRIA Board Member

The Colfax Boy Scout Troup # 13 is planning to hold a bridge building week from April 7-12 at the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park. This will continue the replacement of the old bridges between Jones Beach and Needle Rock. The Boy Scouts Troup will be joined by members of both the Briceland Volunteer Fire Department and Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Departments. These bridges will serve as memorial tributes to the Past Camp Host Coordinator Mike Rydjord, Past Whale Gulch Fire Chief Archie Umina and Past Briceland Fire Chief Tim Olsen, who are each missed dearly in their recent passing. All three individuals exemplified exceptional commitment and leadership in their communities, to make them safer, better, help wherever possible; an important foundation to the principals and mission of the Boy Scouts of America. California State Parks are providing the wood for the bridges and Humboldt Redwoods Interpretive Association will provide the placards. This project is the brain child of Joseph Haas. He has organized the bridge sessions to meet the requirements of his Eagle Scout project. Other Boy Scout troops, organizations, and individuals are welcome to join in the activities April 7-12. Please contact Carla Thomas, Sinkyone Wilderness Camp Host Coordinator, at 1-707-272-1994 or carlasthomas@earthlink.net for details.



Thank You PGE!

HRIA would like to thank PGE for helping to decorate our out door Christmas tree, nicknamed Beckie, a Giant Sequoia we have been using for several years to light up every Christmas at our annual tree lighting. PGE employees are shown helping to string the lights in the rain. PGE workers not only helped put the lights on Beckie, they also came back in January to take the lights down. We appreciate the time and effort of the PGE employees and their lift truck, who help us to make the holidays brighter at Humboldt Redwoods State Park.



New app puts all state parks at your finger tips

A new effort puts nearly 12,000 federal, state and local California parks in one place – your browser. Launched with the support of the Parks Forward Commission, a new web – based app draws on the power of social media to help expand access to California’s trove of natural wonders. The app, which can be found by going to Caliparks.org, draws on a series of data bases to give users a handy

guide to finding the nearest hike, swim, sanctuary or basketball court. While there are 278 state parks, the app also incorporates local and national parks, making information on 11,826 parks available to the public.

Late Winter, Early Spring Wildflowers to look for as you hike in the Redwoods, by Susan O’Hara

Throughout our lives we have many teachers that influence our lives, and as a teacher I hope that I am able to influence positively the students that come through my classroom. However, my greatest teachers were my parents, who taught me to appreciate nature. I don’t remember being taught the names of plants and trees in the redwood forest; instead it was a matter of hiking with my parents, who stopped and said “that is a lady slipper, it always blooms under the Douglas Fir, and it is a Calypso Orchid.” It was my mother who insisted on my learning the scientific names of plants, since she explained, “common names can be confusing and different plants given the same name.” I still use both, as a lover of words, I enjoy the common names and how descriptive they can be. All of the pictures used in this article were taken by my mother, Margaret Pritchard.

My favorite trail to look for spring wildflowers remains the trail between Weott and Burlington, as it runs through different biomes, those of redwood, douglas fir, madrone, and tanoak. In each section of the trail, early wildflowers such as those described in this article can be found.

Closest to Weott, just below the school grounds, is a large bed of the Calypso Orchids. They are very delicate, and remain my favorite of the wild orchids. In *Plants of the Redwood Coast Region* authors Kathleen Lyons and Beth Cuneo-Lazaneo note that the Calypso gets its name from a Greek Goddess. The plant grows from a bulblike root stock.





Perhaps my favorite of the Redwood wildflowers is the Trillium. In this case I prefer the scientific name to the common name of "Wake Robin." The Trillium is a member of the Lily of the Valley family, and its name is derived from its grouping of three leaves and three petals. Trilliums are found under the redwoods, and as you continue south from Weott on the trail, you will come

across many of the lilies, often clumped together. Between Weott and Gould's Bar is the greatest concentration of the trilliums, although they can be found along the trail, and along the Avenue of the Giants. As Trilliums age, they fade to purple. Their seedpods are also three sided.



Another early wildflower, The Fetid Adder's Tongue, is also a member of the Lily of the Valley family. It blooms very early in spring, and its flower is very similar to a Trillium's, but instead of being white, the flower is a mottled greenish brown. When the flower dies, and the seed pod is made, the flower stem bends over, and in effect, helps to plant the seed next to the parent plant. The leaves of the Fetid Adder's tongue are also mottled with spots, but only come in groups of two. The complete scientific name of the Fetid Adder's tongue is *Scolopos Bigelovii*. And, as noted with common names, it can also be called a Slink Pod.

Dentaria is another wildflower with many common names. Often called a Mayflower, it never blooms in May, which seems to be a bit confusing. Another common name is Toothwart, which does help recall the scientific name, which is derived from the toothed underground stems. Dentaria blooms along with the Trillium, and its pale lavender blooms can be easily seen along the trail as you hike towards Burlington.



A surprise find is a Fritillaria Lily. Sometimes called a Checkered Lily or Mission Lily it is unusual with its almost hooded flowers. Fritillarias are members of the Lily family, and are easily recognizable from the hooded aspect of the flowers. This lily can be found in the redwoods from March to April. There are other varieties that grow readily in the dryer slopes found in the park.



I hope that enjoy looking for wildflowers this late Winter and Spring. If you need help identifying flowers, look for books on plant identification at our Visitor Centers!



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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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