

Create Your Legacy

Financial, estate and gift planning ideas for League supporters

May 2013

Unsung Hero Honored with the Gift of a Grove

The names of so many people whose hard work first saved ancient redwood forests remain a mystery. But thanks to a generous donation from an anonymous supporter of Save the Redwoods League, current and future generations can



celebrate Rick Sermon, whose life's work has protected some of the most amazing redwood parks.

Rick Sermon (right) checks redwood seedlings with Dan Burgess, Mill Creek Nursery Manager.



Giants in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park reach to the sky. Rick Sermon chose this park as the site of his honorary grove.

Our anonymous supporter wanted to dedicate a redwood grove to honor and recognize a League ally — someone who has worked tirelessly and selflessly to conserve redwoods but who was not in a position to dedicate a grove. After considering the many worthy people who fill this bill, League staff members selected Sermon, a retired California State Parks employee and longtime League partner and volunteer, as the recipient of the first Unsung Hero Grove.

“So many are worthy of recognition, and one such person is Rick Sermon,” said the supporter. **“It pleases me to help the League recognize Rick’s many lasting contributions, which will ensure that healthy, vigorous redwood forests are a part of our legacy.** To Rick, I offer my everlasting thanks for his exceptional dedication.”

Sermon chose his favorite park, Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park, for the location of his grove.

Sermon worked among the redwoods for more than 30 years until he retired in 2004. He was a key leader for California State Parks, working with the League during the acquisition of 25,000-acre Mill Creek Forest. Since 1973, he’s been assisting League supporters and their families in selecting and dedicating their own special groves. Now Sermon will have his own.

“It’s something I dreamed about, but I never thought it would be possible,” Sermon said. 🌲

You can dedicate a redwood grove to an unsung hero, a loved one or an organization by contacting Megan Ferreira, Major Gifts Officer, at (415) 820-5809, or mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org, or return the attached envelope.

4 Ways You Can Honor Your Loved Ones in the Forest

Inspired by the Unsung Hero Grove story on page 1? Save the Redwoods League offers you **four ways to pay tribute to a loved one or hero** while you help protect redwood forests.



You can dedicate a grove at Navarro River Redwoods State Park (above) and 18 other parks.

1. PLANT A SEEDLING

\$50 per seedling

Support reforestation efforts by sponsoring one or more redwood seedlings. We will plant one in a California State Park, and we will mail you or the tribute recipient a commemorative card.

2. DEDICATE A REDWOOD TREE

\$1,000–\$15,000 depending on tree size

You can dedicate a mature tree marked with numbered tags or GPS coordinates to help you locate it. Personalized maps and certificates also recognize your special selection.

3. SAVE ACRES OF OLD-GROWTH FOREST

\$2,500 for ¼ acre, \$10,000 for 1 acre

Help raise funds to protect two ancient redwood forests in the Santa Cruz Mountains. We will mail you a personalized Certificate of Preservation to recognize your unique, important contribution.

4. DEDICATE A REDWOOD GROVE

\$25,000–\$1 million depending on accessibility and size

Groves are available for dedication along the California coast from Big Sur to the Oregon border. Groves range from 2 to 10 acres and are formally recognized by the California State Parks Commission. Personalized maps show the location of each grove, and in some parks wooden signs commemorate the dedication. 🌲

To sponsor a seedling, contact (415) 820-5800 or membership@SaveTheRedwoods.org. For all other tributes, contact Megan Ferreira at (415) 820-5809 or mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org.

Love of Forest Culminates in Generous Bequest



The late Betty Williams (right) left a bequest to benefit the redwood forest. Her friend, Mary Ann Harrison (left), tells Williams's story here.

At 97, Betty Williams could still tell friends what was going on in the world. One current event she didn't care for was the urbanization of natural places. "This was something she thought she could help with, and she was going to do it by protecting the redwoods," said Williams's lifelong friend, Mary Ann Harrison.

Williams made sure she had a bequest in her trust to benefit Save the Redwoods League and protect the redwood forest for future generations. She requested that a grove be dedicated through her trust. Now a stand of redwoods in Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve is named the M. Betty Williams Memorial Grove.

"Betty felt the trees were her cathedral."

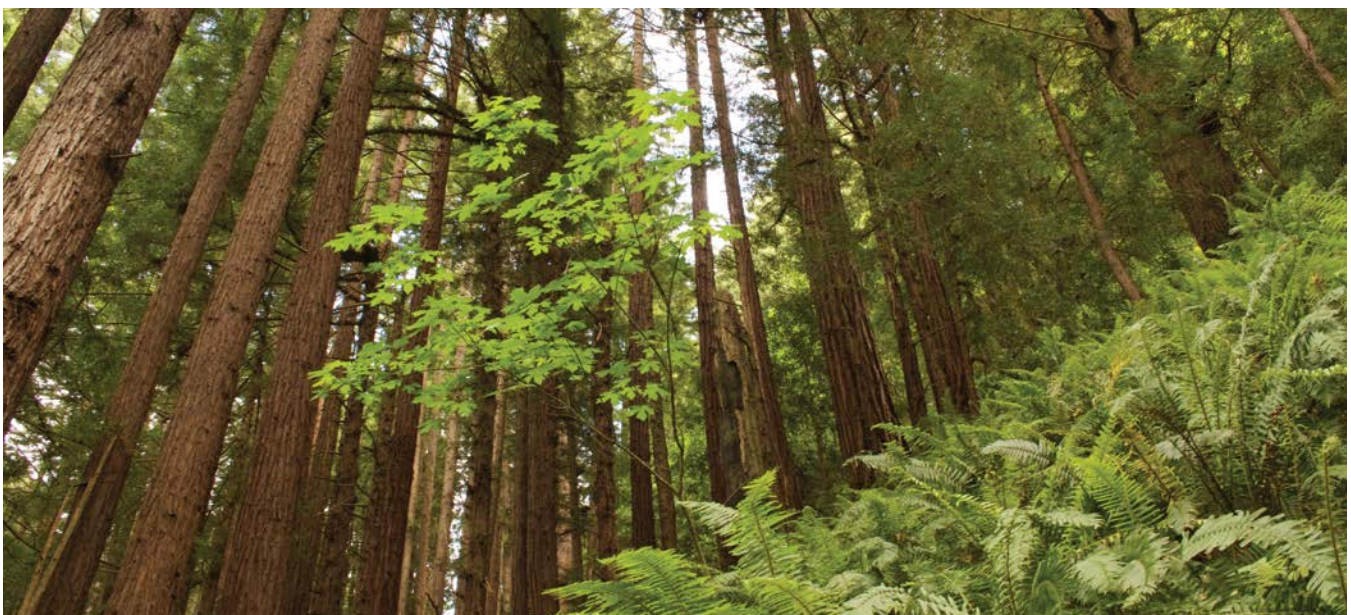
— Mary Ann Harrison

Although her first love was the ocean, Betty also drew inspiration from California's giant sequoias. She and her husband Leonard headed north each summer from their home in San Diego. Their goal — the tranquility of the sequoia groves in Yosemite National Park. "Betty didn't go to church often, but she felt the trees were her cathedral," said Harrison.

Those Yosemite sojourns inspired Betty, an elementary schoolteacher, to join the League in 1977. She was an avid reader who became an armchair traveler in her later years, delighting in astronomy, science and religion. Harrison said that Betty would be happy to know her gift helped create a special place.

"My first trip to the redwoods will be to visit her grove in the Santa Cruz Mountains," said Harrison. "I told my children and friends that we will go visit her there." 🌲

Learn more about how you can make a difference through a bequest in your will or other type of legacy gift. Contact Sharon Rabichow, Planned Giving Officer, at srabichow@SaveTheRedwoods.org, or (415) 820-5828, or return the attached envelope.



Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve (above) is a lush, quiet sanctuary. Betty Williams's grove was established here through her bequest.

Plan Your Legacy – Consider the Redwood Forest

You can remain a hero of the redwood forest long after you're gone by preparing or updating your will or living trust. Most people depart without making such plans. This is known as dying "intestate." Without a will, you lose control of your property because the state will decide how it will be distributed among your relatives and spouse.

When you create or update your estate plan, please consider leaving a legacy gift to protect the forest through Save the Redwoods League. Help build the ranks of thoughtful people who support charities through their estates, currently less than 10 percent of the population. No amount is too small.

USE THIS LANGUAGE FOR YOUR GIFT

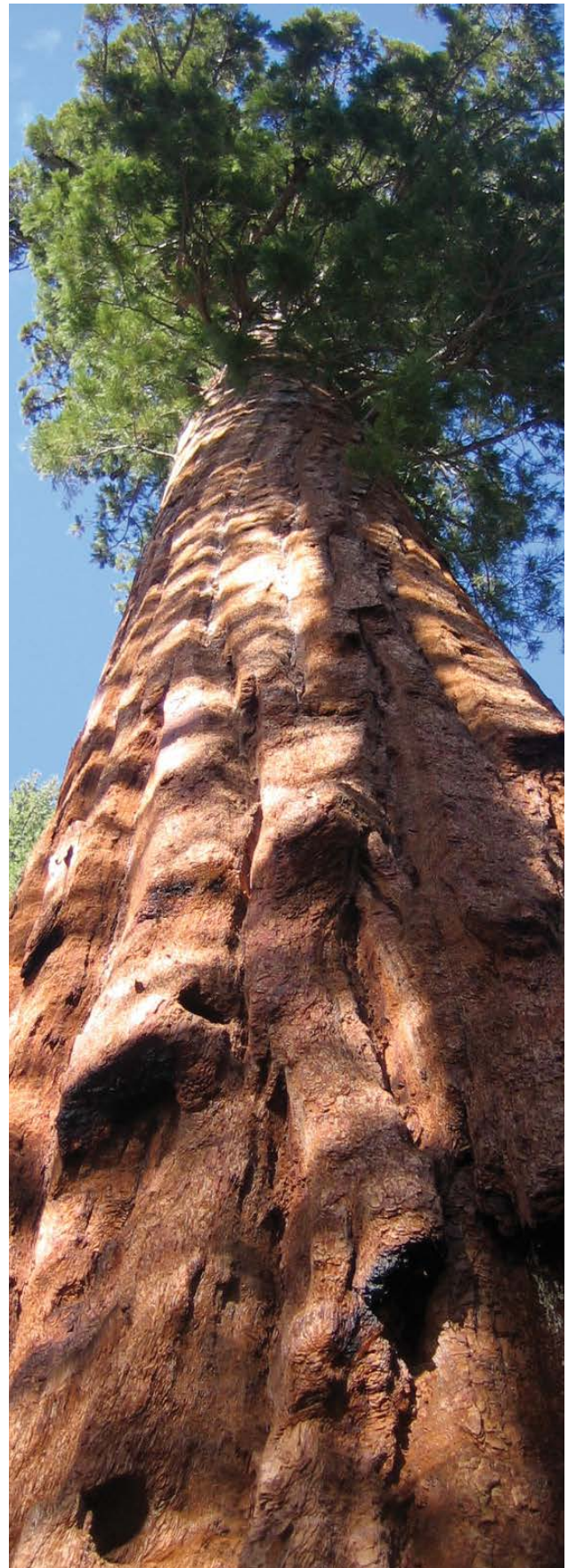
"I give [percentage / amount / description] to Save the Redwoods League, a California nonprofit corporation, currently located at 114 Sansome Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, California 94104, (Tax Identification Number 94-0843915)."

A Legacy Gift – As Simple as Filling out a Form

When choosing which assets to give to charity, consider using those that produce income tax in your estate, like IRAs and similar assets. If you leave an IRA or pension plan to your loved ones, as much as 80 percent of it may be taxed. But if you leave these funds to Save the Redwoods League, the redwood forest will benefit from 100 percent of your gift because the League is tax exempt. Just request a designation form from the company investing your assets.

You also can use a designation form to make gifts of insurance policies, savings and checking accounts, individual stocks and bonds and commercial annuities. As in your will or trust, you have access to your assets while you're alive, and you'll know they will be put to work for the causes you care about after your life.

You can learn about the many other ways to make legacy gifts. Contact Sharon Rabichow, Planned Giving Officer, at srabichow@SaveTheRedwoods.org, or (415) 820-5828.



Your legacy gift can protect towering giant sequoias like this one.

LEGACY CREATORS

September 2012 – April 2013

NEW REDWOOD LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

The League thanks and welcomes the following Redwood Legacy Circle members who have so thoughtfully included us in their estate plans:

Anonymous
Dr. and Mrs. R.
Gerald Alvey
John “Eric” Arens and
Elizabeth Saucier
Mr. Paul R. Cooley
Mr. Daniel DeKimpe
Robert Galbraith and
Robin Chapman
Michael and
Jacqueline Grubb
Kent Housman and Bryn
Bridenthal-Housman
James and Diane Larson
Mr. Thomas S. Maddock
and Mrs. Caroline S.
Maddock
Ms. Lynelle McNiel
John Mertes
Bea and Bob Moore
Mr. Joe B. Murphy
Mr. Ronald F. Pierpoint
Sharon H. Rabichow
Sally Schulz Ross
Ms. Marguerite Smiley
Ms. Ruth A. Swenson
Mr. Stephen J. Van Woert
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis H.
Yarnell

LEGACY GIFTS RECEIVED

The League is especially grateful for gifts from the following estates:

Estate of Richard I. Ball
Dorothy V. Bangert Trust
Dale H. Champion Trust
Jean W. Cohn Living Trust
Shawn M. Combs Trust
Douglass Living Trust
Sylvia Falkove Trust
Virginia Ruth Fowler Estate
The Elizabeth M. Gibson
Revocable Trust
Estate of Franklin D. Gillespie
Alberta M. Keller Revocable
Living Trust
The Gladys Q. Knapp Trust
The Lubersky Trust
Estate of Brian Mallonee
The Leo Mason and Eva B.
Mason Trust
The Eliza Miller Charitable
Remainder Unitrust
Prisanlee Trust, Hawaii
Community Foundation
Rolph-Nichol Fund
Howard Dee Schultz Estate
Elisabeth F. Siebert Trust
The Daniel and Alice Simon
Family Trust
Vernon E. Skovgaard Estate
The Ellsworth Stein Trust
Carl William Wilke, Jr., Trust

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GROVE DEDICATIONS

Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park

Lydia and Bob Johnson
Memorial Grove

Limekiln State Park

Wilke and Lukasko
Family Grove

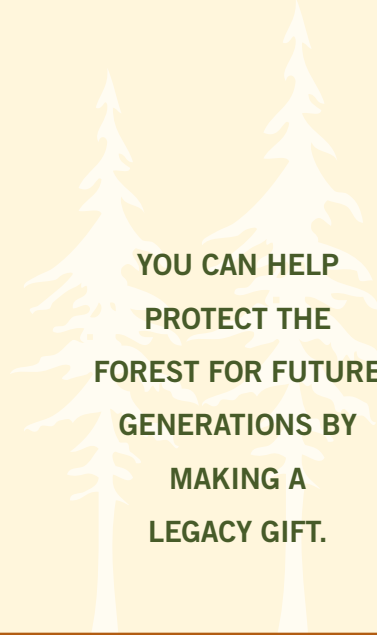
Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park

George and Nina Traub
Family Grove

PLEASE TAKE A SHORT SURVEY

Tell us more about your love
for the redwoods by taking this
survey on the Internet.

planwiththeleague.com/survey



YOU CAN HELP
PROTECT THE
FOREST FOR FUTURE
GENERATIONS BY
MAKING A
LEGACY GIFT.

Please remember the League in your will or trust



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If you must print this electronic version, please help conserve our forests by reusing paper or choosing recycled, chlorine-free paper made from postconsumer waste.



You Can Dedicate Rare Old-Growth Groves

Less than an hour's drive from the bustle of South San Francisco Bay lie some of the most beautiful ancient redwoods left in the region. Peters Creek Forest offers new opportunities for you to dedicate a grove in honor or memory of someone or something you love.



LEARN MORE HERE

For further information, contact Megan Ferreira at (415) 820-5809 or mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org.

Photo by Paolo Vescia

Create Your Legacy is published for supporters of Save the Redwoods League to provide ideas that may be useful in financial, estate and charitable planning. This information is based on current federal tax laws, regulations and recent court decisions. Please ask your professional advisors for assistance.