

Naming League a Beneficiary Nets Tax Advantages

League member Kathy Bouchard said she can make gifts to protect redwoods every year when she's alive, but when she passes on, she can do even more for the giant trees she fell in love with 44 years ago.

That is why Bouchard recently decided to make Save the Redwoods League the beneficiary of her IRA account. She chose this type of donation partly because of its tax advantages.

"If I leave an IRA account to an individual, it's taxed at a high rate," she said. "But a charitable organization gets to keep every penny, with no taxes. So the money goes a lot farther."

Born and raised in New York City, Bouchard was once an urbanite. But at age 22 she took a fateful bus ride across the country and fell in love with California's redwoods. "I had never seen anything so big," she said.

"When I touch a trunk, I think about what this tree has seen in the hundreds of years it's been here."

— Kathy Bouchard

Today Bouchard, a paralegal, lives in Southern California and considers herself a "nature person." On her time off, she heads north to visit redwood parks.

"I love driving up through the Avenue of the Giants, finding a private little grove, and sitting there and staring at the trees," she said.

On one visit to Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, Bouchard spotted a Save the Redwoods



Kathy Bouchard is leaving her IRA account to the League.

Photo: Naomi Tenen

League brochure, which prompted her to start making yearly donations.

At 66, Bouchard appreciates the redwoods even more than when she first saw them. "When I touch a trunk, I think about what this tree has seen in the hundreds of years it's been here." And she treasures her time walking among them. "It's so rejuvenating. I always keep wanting to come back."

Bouchard's generosity is helping ensure that others will be able to walk among the tall trees, too, for many years to come. 🌲

For more information about ways to make a lasting contribution and help ensure the future of the redwood forest, please contact Sharon Rabichow at (415) 820-5828 or srabichow@SaveTheRedwoods.org

Free and Easy Legacy Gifts

In the last issue of *Create Your Legacy*, we provided a list of gifts you can make easily without legal assistance. Here are more tips on how to make those gifts.



There are many types of legacy gifts that you can make just by filling out your provider's paperwork.

Here's the list:

- IRA or pension plan
- Life insurance
- Stocks and bonds
- Savings account
- Checking account

The key to setting up these gifts is contacting the institution that holds your asset. Ask them for a beneficiary form. Some companies refer to them as “designation” or “payment on death” forms.

It's important to remember that when you fill out the form and you have language in your will or living trust about the same asset, if there is a discrepancy, the form takes precedence over the will or trust. This is because you have a contract with the company, and that form is part of the contract. The will or trust is not part of the contract.

When you include the League through this free and easy gift, we'd love to honor your commitment by enrolling you in our Redwood Legacy Circle. We'll include your name in publications such as our annual report. You'll receive a copy of the beautiful book, *Coast Redwood: A Natural and Cultural History*, and invitations to special members-only events such as our annual reception and our popular redwood tours. Your name also will be honored at many League functions. When you step forward, others are encouraged to do the same. Of course, you may choose to remain anonymous.

For more information about the Redwood Legacy Circle or how you can make a lasting contribution to the League, please return the response envelope inserted in this newsletter. 🌲

Grove Dedication Celebrates Heroic Parents

Christa Lyons, a Save the Redwoods League member and volunteer, had long admired her parents as heroes. So in September 2009, she and her husband dedicated a grove to them in Humboldt Redwoods State Park through the League's grove program.

The family took a roundabout path to the redwoods. In 1938, Kurt and Hilde Munchheimer fled Nazi Germany for Nigeria, where Kurt, a medical doctor, worked in a leper colony. Two years later, they were arrested by the British, who saw them simply as "enemy" Germans. The couple spent the next six years in an internment camp in Jamaica, where one son and a daughter,

Christa, were born. The son died due to lack of medical facilities.

After their release, the Munchheimers moved to New Jersey, where Kurt was ordained as a Presbyterian minister. In 1953, they moved to Rio Dell, the largest town in Northern California without a doctor.

"The grove dedication was one of the most special days in our lives."

— Christa Lyons

"I can still remember the drive up the Avenue of the Giants — and the awe we felt in the presence of those trees." Lyons said.

It didn't take long for her father to join Save the Redwoods League.

Lyons has continued her parents' tradition of service. Retired from a 30-year career at the IRS, she volunteers for the Red Cross, the African Blackwood Conservation Project and the Save the Redwoods League Education Committee and Board of Councillors. She also named the League in her estate plans.

"The grove dedication was one of the most special days in our lives," said Lyons, who plans to return to the site every year. "It gives me a feeling I don't get anywhere else. My parents are there in spirit. I could not have picked a better way to honor them." 🌲

For more information about dedicating a unique grove or tree in honor of a loved one, please contact Megan Ferreira at (415) 820-5809 or mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org, or return the response envelope inserted in this newsletter.



Christa Lyons said of her parents and the grove that bears their name: "My parents are here in spirit."

Honor the Beloved in Your Life with a Grove or Tree

Each redwood dedication has its unique story. Some people dedicate a grove or tree to memorialize the everlasting love shared between two individuals or a family. Others are established in celebration of a birthday or anniversary. Some acknowledge the work of a favorite group, organization or hero.

Regardless of the reason for the dedication of a redwood grove or tree, the individuals, families and organizations that have named these lands have played an important role in both the League's and the state of California's history.

Since its founding in 1918, Save the Redwoods League has worked to ensure that the tallest and some of the largest and oldest living beings on Earth are preserved for everyone to enjoy. With the support of members like you, the League has helped build an unparalleled system of redwood parks and preserves, and protected more than 189,000 acres of redwood forest and associated lands.

Take 3 Years to Make Your Grove Contribution

Dedicating a redwood grove or tree through a gift to Save the Redwoods League helps preserve the beauty of the redwoods, while setting aside a special place in this unique forest where you and your loved ones may enjoy the trees, rivers and wildlife. Grove gifts begin at \$25,000 and support vital work including land acquisition, forest restoration, education and scientific research.

Our members' gifts are crucial for protecting more of Earth's giants from various threats, including unsustainable logging and poorly planned development. More than 1 million acres of coast redwood forests are unprotected, and immediate opportunities remain to purchase thousands of acres to buffer giant sequoias.

For more information about dedicating a grove or tree, or to discuss grove donation timelines, please contact Megan Ferreira at (415) 820-5809 or mferreira@SaveTheRedwoods.org.

To make the dream of dedicating a redwood grove a reality, many League supporters choose to make their grove gifts over three years.



Groves like this one in Butano State Park are available for dedication.

LEGACY CREATORS

April 2010 – September 2010

REDWOOD LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

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

Patty Alling
Bette Jean Clute
Geoff and Marilyn Godfrey
Reuben A. Jimenez and
Joel Masotti
Harry M. Johnson and Joyce
G. Johnson
Ms. Patricia Johnson
Rona Kardener
Lenore Meyer
Mr. Harold A. Schessler
Ashleigh Wilson
Anonymous (5)

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

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

Estate of Mrs. George S.
Brazelton
Coon/Hathaway Trust
Rose T. Davis Trust
Ruth W. Fields Trust
Roy R. Glotfelty Living Trust
Helen and Joseph Hakl
Trust
Freda M. Herrera Trust
Doris B. Kelsey Exemption
Trust
The Gladys Q. Knapp Trust
Charles Henry Lathe Estate
Virginia Wolfe Main Trust
William F. Murphy Trust
Leslie Poindexter Estate
Prisanlee Trust
Stephen A. Thompson
Living Trust
Francis R. Wilson Trust
Anonymous

HONOR AND MEMORIAL GROVE DEDICATIONS

Wilder Ranch State Park

Katherine W. and
Lawrence C. Merriam
Grove

Alan "Blind Owl" Wilson
Memorial Grove

Purisima Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve

Amanda Marie Dauber
Memorial Grove

The Ludemann-Gunther
Family Grove

Big Basin Redwoods State Park

John Down Luckhardt
Memorial Grove

Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park

Ruth Cottrell Morris
Memorial Grove



Remember the League in your will



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Why Do League Supporters Create Legacy Gifts?

A prime reason is to protect redwood forests and the ecosystems in which these beautiful trees thrive. However, there are more reasons.

Some supporters want to help sustain an organization that has become a significant long-term part of their lives. Others want to memorialize themselves or a loved one through the dedication of a grove.

A family may decide to make a gift to help ensure that their heirs also can enjoy these natural treasures. Many achieve

a reduction in taxes through careful financial, estate and charitable planning. Some members enjoy income for life through a charitable gift annuity or charitable remainder trust. Other members know Save the Redwoods League to be one of the most fiscally responsible organizations to which they belong.

Whatever your reason may be, we thank you for considering a legacy gift. **Our members' gifts make our work possible.**

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.