

Save the Redwoods League
ANNUAL REPORT 2007

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
PHOTO: PHIL SCHERMEISTER



HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK
PHOTO: PHIL SCHERMEISTER

The members of Save-the-Redwoods-League have added another year of significant accomplishments to our 89-year commitment to saving the redwoods. Last year, the League protected land valued at more than \$4.3 million, restored 540-acres of degraded forestland, collaborated with scientists to expand our understanding of the forest, and provided support for thousands of children to experience the redwood forest. It was also a year of discoveries, new partnerships, and honoring of long-standing commitments.

DISCOVERY AND PASSION

Where do the tallest redwoods grow, and just how tall can they get? Having spent over a decade searching the redwood forest for the world's tallest trees, Chris Atkins and Michael Taylor this year found not one, but three that surpassed previous records -- including Hyperion, at 379.1 feet, the world's tallest living thing. These discoveries also challenged our understanding that redwoods soar to the loftiest heights on rich alluvial flats. These champions, located on steep slopes above small creeks, demonstrate that we have more to learn about the redwoods. So we continue to support the research of leading redwood scientists, as we have for the past decade.

Chris and Michael's passion for the redwoods was stimulated by childhood excursions to the redwood forests. In a society increasingly insulated from nature, where will such experiences of natural wonder come from? The League's education program counters these trends by encouraging personal experience of the forest. Last year we partnered with National Park interpreters to develop a Questing guide to Muir Woods. By following clues set to poetry, children discover the redwoods at their own pace; learning about the forest and having fun at the same time. Who knows, perhaps one will make the next great redwood discovery!

NEW PARTNERS

For the first time, the League helped extend a community-owned forest. Adjacent to the City of Arcata, this highly visible property was threatened with aggressive harvest and development. Our challenge grant enabled the Arcata City Forest to close a funding gap on the \$4 million project. One-third of the forest is now a dedicated reserve, while the remainder will be managed through ecologically sustainable timber harvest. We believe this form of partnership represents another effective avenue of protection.

HONORING COMMITMENTS

In 1921, the League completed its first acquisition: 394 acres in what is now Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Last year, a small yet strategic 24-acre purchase added a vital piece to a protection



Ruskin Hartley, Executive Director
Ed Claassen, President

PHOTO: PAOLO VESCIA

puzzle that is not yet complete. Our protection work continues to be guided by our Master Plan for the Coast Redwoods, a science-based conservation strategy. With the completion of analysis of the southern region, we have now created plans for the entire range of the coast redwood.

Two other success stories of 2006 started in the 1920s. We worked with a donor to establish the 1000th memorial redwood grove. For many decades, this program has enabled members to create living memorials while supporting critical protection work. Second, we joined nine other conservation groups to secure passage of Proposition 84 – a \$5.4 billion water, parks and resource bond. Its passage recalls the first park bond that the League placed on the ballot in 1928. When leveraged with our members' private contributions, Proposition 84 funds will enable the League to continue our long-standing commitment to saving the redwoods.

These accomplishments would not be possible without the generosity and commitment of Save-the-Redwoods League members and partners. We look forward to future discoveries ahead.

Protection **SAVING KEY PARCELS AND WATERSHEDS**



OXALIS OREGANA
redwood sorrel

The League recently agreed to purchase 100 acres of redwood forest for addition to Butano State Park. The property was a family retreat with eight owners; the League will purchase the interests of five owners.

George and Lou Anne Houck are making the acquisition possible by patiently working with the League, its partners, and their family members, who are spread from Washington State to the Bay Area to Sweden. The acquisition process was catalyzed in 2006, thanks to a generous grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

George, representing son John, daughter Catherine, and niece Jo, commented: "The League, and subsequently State Parks, is the perfect buyer for this beautiful and cherished property. We are delighted to see it preserved, forever." The League celebrates the commitments of landowners like the Houcks, who make our work possible and keep it enjoyable.



George and Lou Ann Houck

PHOTO: HOUCK FAMILY



24-acres of ancient redwoods added to Humboldt Redwoods State Park.

Save-the-Redwoods League's land protection work continues to be driven by the Master Plan for the Coast Redwood, the League's science-based strategy for the entire redwood ecosystem. Under the Master Plan, the League focuses its efforts on three strategies: permanently protecting the last remnants of the ancient redwood forest, securing viable redwood parks and reserves, and maintaining the connecting forest landscape. In 2006-2007 we protected with our partners over 200 acres of redwood forest lands valued at \$4.3 million.

This year, the League completed two strategic acquisitions, transferred four properties to public agencies for stewardship and public access, and laid the seeds for upcoming projects.

In 2004, the League was alerted to the eminent logging of a stand of ancient redwoods flanking Highway 101 at the northern stem of Humboldt Redwoods State Park. A timber harvest plan had been filed to harvest the trees in this grove. Just weeks before logging was to begin, California State Parks asked the League for assistance. With funds provided by our members, the League was able to successfully negotiate the purchase of the property. These ancient trees were added to the Park in September 2006.

North of Humboldt Redwoods State Park is the Arcata Community Forest, a new kind of reserve which combines sustainable forestry, public recreation, and restoration of a second growth redwood forest. It is recognized internationally as a model for community forests. In mid-2006, the City of Arcata, owner of the forest, sought the League's assistance in completing acquisition of critical land to be added to the forest. Using donations from our members, the League was able to make a challenge grant that catalyzed the City's efforts to raise the remaining funds needed to complete the purchase in November. The League is proud to be a partner in this community's innovative approach to forest management.

DEL NORTE COAST REDWOODS STATE PARK

Donated to the League in 2002, this 93-acre grove of ancient redwoods is one of only two remaining pockets of old growth in the 25,000 acre Mill Creek tract. Added to the park this year, it creates an anchor for the old growth forest the League is working to restore throughout this rich stretch of second growth forest.

ARCATA COMMUNITY FOREST

The 175-acre Sunny Brae tract of second growth redwoods was added to the community forest, creating new recreational opportunities for the residents of Arcata.



HUMBOLDT REDWOODS STATE PARK

Protection of this 24-acre stand of redwoods preserves the majestic skyline provided by these strategically-located ancient trees, while saving one more remnant of the lush old growth forest that once blanketed this part of Humboldt County.

MONTGOMERY WOODS STATE RESERVE

This 2-acre inholding was added to the Reserve in early 2007, consolidating California State Parks' holdings in the critical Big River watershed, an area in which the League continues to pursue acquisitions.

FOREST OF NISENE MARKS STATE PARK

The League transferred this half-acre inholding to California State Parks, one of the last few remnants of an old subdivision that is now entirely surrounded by the Park. During its ownership, the League removed a cabin on the property, which will permit natural restoration to begin.



California State parks Director Ruth Coleman, League Executive Director Ruskin Hartley, and Western Regional Director of the National Parks Service Jonathan B. Jarvis



HENRY COWELL REDWOODS STATE PARK

This 307-acre tract, added to the Park early this year, contains not only a spectacular stand of redwoods, but also an extremely rare sandhill habitat, which provides a home for several endangered species. This year, California State Parks, the National Park Service, and the League hosted an event at the property celebrating this park addition. Executive Director Ruskin Hartley, California State Parks Director Ruth Coleman, and Western Regional Director of the National Parks Service John B. Jarvis addressed the gathering, lauding not only the efforts of those partners, but also the contributions of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and all the League members who enabled to the purchase of the property.

Restoration

UNDERSTANDING IMPACTS AND POSSIBILITIES



TRILLIUM OVATUM
western trillium

Save-the-Redwoods League, in partnership with California State Parks, the Department of Fish and Game, the National Park Service, and the Headwaters Forest Reserve (Bureau of Land Management) has been instrumental in obtaining newly available laser-based imagery for 138,000 acres of protected redwood forest in Humboldt and Del Norte counties. Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) helps see through the forest canopy, allowing researchers to identify small streams, landslides and habitat where endangered species may exist.

LiDAR technology far surpasses the accuracy of other surveying systems. For example, traditional aerial photography estimates of forest canopy height have an average error range of nearly 100 feet, compared with 1.5 feet with LiDAR.

Data will be used initially to establish baseline forest conditions and to support restoration work at Mill Creek and other parks and reserves. It literally allows us to see the forest in a whole new light.



Researchers preparing to ascend Hyperion.

PHOTO: PHIL SCHERMEISTER

Save-the-Redwoods League is a leader in the evolving field of forest restoration. By bringing together forest science and sound principles of land management, the League is creating a model program of integrated, ecologically-based restoration. Because good restoration and management starts with understanding, in 2006-2007, the League granted over \$97,000 in research grants to seven universities and institutes across the country.

Last September, together with four-time League research grant recipient Dr. Steve Sillett, the League led a team to confirm the height of the world's tallest living thing, a coast redwood tree. Naturalists and explorers Chris Atkins and Michael Taylor discovered the tree, which they named Hyperion, on a remote slope in Redwood National Parks. As recently as the late 1970's, this giant was at risk of being harvested for timber. Using a laser range finder, Dr. Sillett first estimated Hyperion to be over 378 feet tall. To verify this, he scaled the tree and dropped a measuring tape from its top, directly measuring Hyperion's height of 379.1 feet.

Tall tree research enables scientists to learn more about how these trees use water to grow. The difficulty of lifting water into the upper reaches of their crown is one of the factors that limit redwood height. At the top of Hyperion, Dr. Sillett found leaves that were larger than expected, revealing that Hyperion is thriving and will continue to grow.

Again this year the League supported California State Parks' reforestation tree planting program through continued operation and expansion of the on-site nursery at Mill Creek.



Young, dense plantations border the old growth adjacent to Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park.

PHOTO: LATHROP LEONARD

RESTORING AND PLANNING FOR A MATURE FOREST OF THE FUTURE

The integrity of an ancient redwood grove depends on the forest and landscape that surrounds it. Forest restoration seeks to assist the recovery of degraded forests that are threatened by eroding roads and unnaturally high tree densities. In 2006-2007 at the 25,000 acre Mill Creek property, the League supported the decommissioning of 2.5 miles of abandoned logging roads to protect sensitive wild salmon habitat, the restoration of over 540 acres of young plantation-like forest stands, and the expansion of an onsite tree nursery.

WATERSHED PROTECTION FOR POST CREEK

This year, the League made life a little easier for the endangered salmon who call Post Creek of Monterey County home. Working with our partners, Save-the-Redwoods League repaired a failing road that threatened the creek's water quality. We're now ready to transfer this 72-acre property to become the latest addition to Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.



Placing new road culvert designed to withstand a 100 year storm event.

FIRE RESEARCH INFORMS OLD FOREST RESTORATION ACTION

New research indicates that indigenous peoples may have, through their intentional use of fire, affected the forest. Ecologist Dr. Steve Norman, Redwood Sciences Lab, has dated fire scars of old growth stumps. Supported by a research grant from the League, Dr. Norman has found evidence that there were many low-burning fires in the wet forests predating European settlement. Fires appeared to be most frequent near known Indian village sites. The League's restoration initiatives can use research like Dr. Norman's to inform actions intended to recreate the special qualities of old growth.



Education LINKING TO NATURAL PLACES

ATHYRIUM FELIX-SEMINA
deer fern

Dear Save-the-Redwoods League:

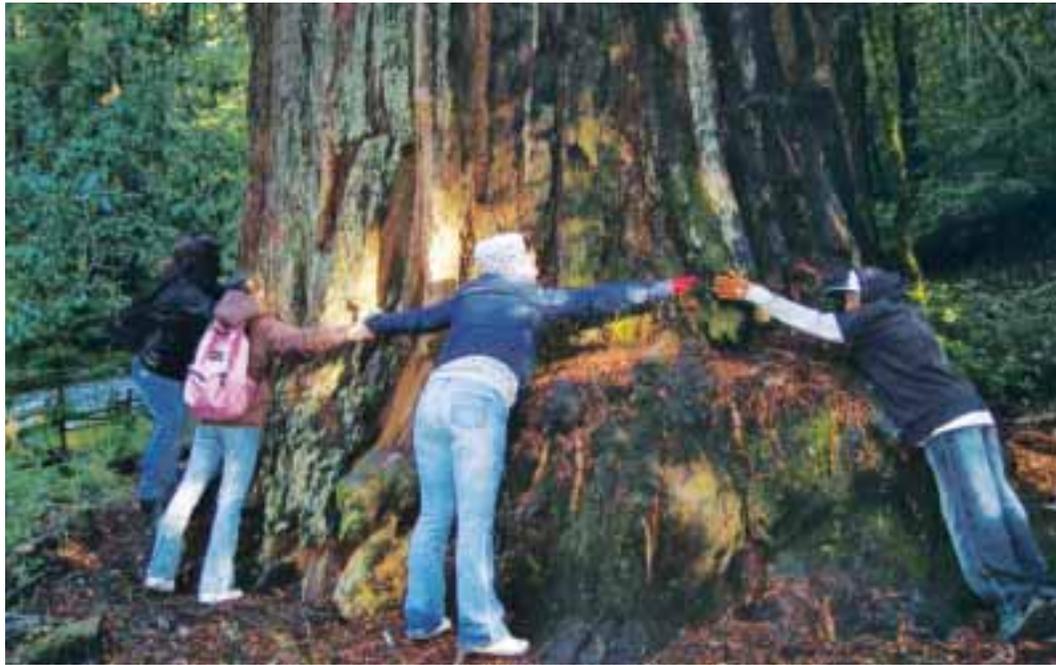
Thank you for helping our class go to Muir Woods...When I went to the riparian community, it was fun! The fun part was when I painted my face with rocks. I was very brave to kiss the banana slug. It felt slimy.

The core of the forest was amazing because I found Redwood Sorrell and Coast Redwood and different plants. My favorite part was when we did the solo walk. Thank you! I hope that I can visit Muir Woods again.

from Victoria,
Sunset Elementary School



ILLUSTRATION: JACK, SUNSET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



How many 6th graders DOES it take to hug a Coast Redwood?

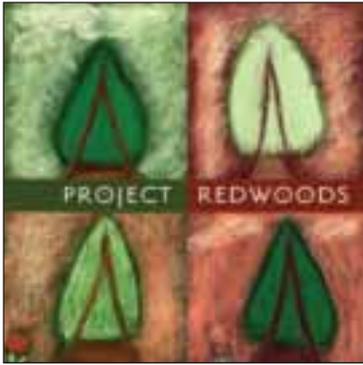
PHOTO: AMBER FOSTER, BEAMER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Research has clearly shown a link between childhood outdoor experiences and life-long environmental commitment. Save-the-Redwoods League's education program seeks to nurture this type of dedication and ensure society's future commitment to the redwood forest. Through our Redwood Education Grants program, we strive to:

- **Lead the way** in producing quality environmental education programs,
- **Reach out** to urban families who might never see a redwood tree, and
- **Enhance the redwood visitor experience**, especially along the historic Redwood Highway.

Thanks to the generous support of our members, 24 Redwood Education Grants were awarded in 2006-2007, totaling more than \$110,000. The projects we sponsored helped thousands of children and adults throughout California be inspired by our ancient redwood forests, laying the groundwork for future preservation.

2006 Redwood Education Grant recipients: Acorn Soupe, Napa • Art in the Park, Los Angeles • Beamer Park Elementary School, Woodland • Boys & Girls Clubs of SF, San Francisco • CEDAR Academy, Arcata • Del Norte County Unified School District, Crescent City • Dow's Prairie School, McKinleyville • EarthTeam, Berkeley • East Bay Conservation Corps, Oakland • Eel River Salmon Restoration Project, Miranda • Humboldt County Office of Education, Eureka • The Ink People Center for the Arts, Eureka • Klamath River Early College of the Redwoods, Klamath • Manila Community Services District, Arcata • Muir Woods National Monument, Marin County • North Coast Redwood Interpretive Association, Orick • Salmon Protection and Watershed Network, Forest Knolls • Sequoia Natural History Association, Three Rivers • Sequoia Park Zoo Foundation, Eureka • South Fork High School, Miranda • Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods, Duncans Mills • University of California, Berkeley • Whitethorn Elementary School, Whitethorn • Wilderness Arts and Literacy Collaborative, San Francisco



CD cover of *Project Redwoods*

Project Redwoods

Art in the Park / Lalo Guerrero School of Music (LGSM)
www.lgsm.org

Los Angeles

Learning about redwoods was a fun and creative experience for Lalo Guerrero School of Music students this year. Through *Project Redwoods*, students took a field trip to local Descanso Gardens with their families, discovering the importance of these majestic trees. Students then expressed what they felt and saw through their own drawings, music, and dances. A YouTube video was produced which showcased the students at work and an audio CD of winning compositions was created in a professional recording studio.



Pretending to be different organisms living in the redwood forest

PHOTO: LYNNE BRYAN

Wolf Creek Outdoor School Trip
Dow's Prairie School
Humboldt County

McKinleyville students traveled to Redwood National and State Parks to spend a week at Wolf Creek Outdoor School, learning about redwoods, redwood ecology, and ecosystems.



PHOTO: PAOLA BOULEY

Salmon Grow on Trees
Salmon Protection and Watershed Network
www.spawnusa.org
Marin County

Students and local residents learned about the ecological relationships between healthy redwood forests and salmon populations while practicing environmental stewardship of local watersheds. The aim was to foster a life-long appreciation and understanding of our environment by engaging people of all ages in protecting imperiled salmon in local streams.



ACER MACROPHYLLUM
big leaf maple

Statement of Financial Position

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE
MARCH 31, 2007

The financial information as of and for the year ended March 31, 2007, has been derived from the League's 2007 financial statements, audited by Burr, Pilger & Mayer, independent auditors. The condensed financial information should be read in conjunction with the 2007 audited financial statements and related notes. Contact the League's office for copies of the complete audited statements.



EQUISETUM SP.
horsetail
PHOTO: PHIL SCHERMEISTER

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,969,443
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	329,202
Interest receivable	524,934
Contributions receivable	2,006,661
Other receivable	899,861
Investments	51,805,895
Real estate held	4,662,980
Contributions receivable from irrevocable trusts	2,190,087
Property and equipment, net	103,869
Deposits on land purchase	12,000
Other assets	38,462
Endowment cash	<u>368,481</u>
 Total assets	 <u><u>\$65,911,875</u></u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities:	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$718,288
Note payable	<u>500,000</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,218,288</u>
 Net assets:	
Unrestricted	41,149,458
Temporarily restricted	23,175,648
Permanently restricted	<u>368,481</u>
Total net assets	<u>64,693,587</u>
 Total liabilities and net assets	 <u><u>\$65,911,875</u></u>

Statement of Activities

SAVE-THE-REDWOODS LEAGUE FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2007

REVENUE AND PUBLIC SUPPORT:

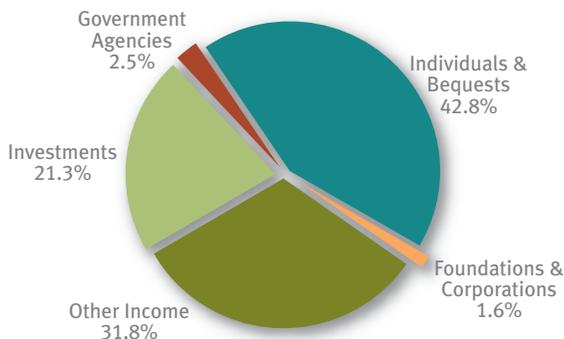
Contributions:	
Donations	\$4,029,928
Program and land acquisition contributions	1,318,221
Reforestation, restoration, research and other contributions	565,742
In-kind contributions	3,167
Change in value of irrevocable trusts	215,510
Income from investments	2,784,929
Gain on revaluation of land	4,147,293
Other income	<u>9,884</u>
Total revenue and public support	<u>13,074,674</u>

EXPENSES:

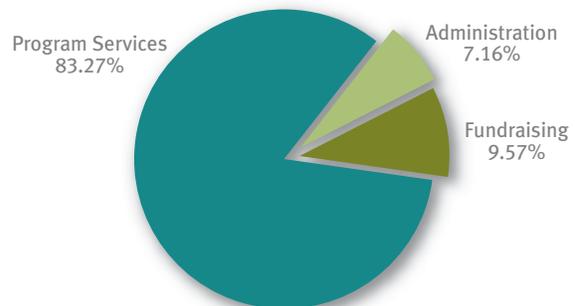
Program services:	
Land deeded to State of California	11,084,463
Redwood land program support	1,995,990
Cooperative preservation grants	150,000
Education and research grants	206,223
Redwood reforestation grants	45,000
Other grants	<u>143,931</u>
Total program services	<u>13,625,607</u>
Support services:	
General and administrative	1,172,395
Fund-raising	<u>1,565,855</u>
Total support services	<u>2,738,250</u>
Total expenses	<u>16,363,857</u>

Increase (Decrease) in net assets (\$3,289,183)

**REVENUE BY CATEGORY
FY06-07**



**TOTAL PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY
FY06-07**





BOARD OF COUNCILLORS

** Directors*

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- Sarah Connick*
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- Donn Walklet
- Ellen C. Weaver
- Frank Wentworth
- Bruce Westphal
- Mary Wright*

PRAIRIE CREEK REDWOODS STATE PARK
PHOTO: HOWARD KING

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